





## CHINESE REPOSITORY.

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ART. I. *Chingtih hwang Yew Keangnan: The Rambles of the emperor Chingtih in Keangnan. Published in 1832, in 7 small vols. Reviewed by a Correspondent.*

WE once promised to review the newest book coming wet from the press. To atone for our having so long dwelt upon the most ancient of all volumes, the Shoo King, we now, having just fallen across the little work that stands named at the head of this article, will no longer hesitate to try our critical skill upon a performance that has never yet been reviewed.

When Hungwoo, the founder of the Ming dynasty, had ascended the throne, all the barbarians became submissive, and the people enjoyed an enviable tranquillity. Thus the government was transmitted from one emperor to another, until it finally devolved, in 1488, upon Hungche, to bear sway over the black-haired people. This was the remarkable period, when the western empires began to awake from a long torpor, and the art of printing, the discovery of America, and the reformation, changed the face of the globe. The scenes represented to us in these volumes refer to the contemporary period, and it is well worth while to view the state of China, at one of the most important junctures of the history of the human race.

Our author commences his history at the death of Hungche, in 1506, in the true Chinese style of beginning with the end. Feeling the approach of death, he called the six ministers before him; one of them was a man from the province of Kwangtung. He expatiated in a humble strain upon his government, and then recommended

his son, a youth of fifteen, to the sage counselors, and having arranged everything well, he took his departure from this world, in the 36th year of his age.

His son, known under the name of Chingtih, (his posthumous title in the ancestral hall being Wootsung,) spent three years, according to the prescribed custom, in mourning, and during all this time the six ministers acted as regents. Time, however, speeding on with eagle's wings, the last day of the period arrived, and on the next, a great council of state being convened, the young monarch appeared in all the attraction of imperial splendor, and was hailed with general acclamations from the assembled crowd of mandarins. The most happy omens of a fortunate reign had appeared, and the nation was in raptures when contemplating the future national prosperity.

No happiness, however, is unalloyed in this life. Whilst all Europe was throbbing with expectations of being soon delivered from spiritual thralldom, the master spirits in China, only endeavored to rivet the chains of their countrymen still faster, to perpetuate uniformity and a never changing course of life, which may be extremely agreeable to the rulers, but is blasting to the dearest interests of mankind. It was then that the decay commenced, which little more than a century afterwards rendered the empire a prey to the Mantchous.

But to return to our story. The youthful prince, though extremely lively and attractive in his manners, found the round of etiquette a very irksome task, and was above all tired when long and unmeaning papers were read before him, to make him more conversant with all the minutix of a court. Thus he sat down discontented in his apartments, and began to regret his having ascended a throne, when one of the principal eunuchs happily entered, whose name was Lew Kin. This man had dandled the emperor on his knee when a babe; had played with him when a little urchin, just beginning to walk; and thus the prince felt a warm attachment towards the friend of his youth. "Dispel your cares," he exclaimed, "I will procure for you better pastime;" and immediately he ordered four of the most accomplished young ladies to be his constant companions. Thus, amidst the sounds of harp and timbrel, he forgot the prosy lectures of his guardians, and for once he felt an interest in the life to which his superior station entitled him. The courtier added to his amusements a menagerie of dogs that could speak, of horses which would lie down and swing themselves in hammocks, of cows that would give regular calls, and of falcons able to transmit a conversation. To this wonderful collection of learned quadrupeds and bipeds, we find a

parallel in the ursine academy in Esthonia, as described by a French traveler of the 16th century. It would appear, that the ancient czars of Russia, much admiring the sagacity of bruin, considered him capable of receiving the highest education, and a public institution was therefore erected to give his kind all the advantages of the most polished society, which the country could at that time afford. Having accomplished this great end, he was in company with his keeper to traverse western Europe, and to amuse the world by dancing and comic performances. The tutors being moreover very shrewd men, received direction from their mighty prince, to make extensive inquiries about the state of the countries where they exhibited their art, and above all to spy out the secrets of courts. Having thus obtained sufficient information with which to regale the royal ears, they hastened back to their homes, generally selling their hopeful pupils; and then the first diplomatic intercourse was commenced between the mighty eastern empire and the civilized states of that part of the world. We introduce here this subject merely to show, what service the brute creation can perform, if properly trained, and to prove at the same time that the eunuch Lew Kin was not at all singular in his collection of speaking beasts. This afforded them an amazing deal of amusement, and for aught we know, this humble school for the instruction of brutes might have been raised to the rank of a university, if the ministers had not taken great umbrage at it.

It is the good old custom of the Chinese court, to hold an audience every day, at which the emperor presides. The mandarins, high and low, hastened as customary to the hall, but found it shut, and a tablet suspended on the door, signifying to them, that no audience would take place. This neglect greatly annoyed them, and it was soon discovered, that the emperor was all the time engaged in looking after his horses and cows. Thus the whole indignation of the council of state fell upon the brutes, and those who had procured and taught them. A severe remonstrance subscribed by all the functionaries of the capital was sent in to his majesty, who being a weak and humble man, immediately allowed that he was wrong. Being, however, unwilling to part with his pastime, he steered a middle course, and willingly agreed, that the principal author of so much mischief should be sent to the frontiers in command of a powerful army, to expiate his crime of frivolity. Shense province, with the important passes towards the district of Oroumutsi, has always been considered the key of the empire, and one of the first suggestions of the regency was to guard this post effectually. Now this advice



was followed up: a mountebank, assuming the imposing title of field-marshal, bent his steps towards the west, and both Calmucks as well as Turkomans had to respect the frontiers of the Central Kingdom, when such a doughty hero commanded. The ministry was as glad of having rid itself of such a dangerous character as the marshal, as our's is, when a violent radical takes office; but Lew Kin had more foresight, and when his friend took his departure, he made a covenant with him, that they should defend each other until death. To make such an agreement with a man who has 10,000 pikes at his command is worth the trouble it may cost.

The veterans, having become bold by success, now complained, that all the state-papers and petitions, of which wagon loads daily arrived at court, remained unopened, and directly accused the imperial minions as the cause of all this delay in hearing them. The emperor, good naturedly, took the reproof of Lew Kin, who offered instantly his services as president of the court of requests, and set immediately to work to break seals and dispatch business. A public audience was then given, but the old counselors could not brook the eunuch's exaltation, and therefore blamed their sovereign in open court. The patient monarch could not bear this, and sent them away in high dudgeon.

On his return to the palace, the eunuchs consulted what was to be done under such dangerous circumstances, for whatever might be their transitory authority, it could never suffer such rude shocks, and the monarch would finally be obliged to discard them from his presence. Their deliberation was carried on with great anxiety, when one amongst the number stepped forward, and said, that he had devised a plan, which would suit their purpose excellently. "We must make ourselves necessary; we ought to render services to our young master, such as can never be forgotten, and as will give us, in the sight of the whole nation, a claim upon his constant gratitude. But let me *act*." Having said thus, he set out incognito to one of the remote villages. There he happened to see an old woman, weeping before her door most bitterly. On inquiry he learned, that she had two sons, the eldest an excellent and virtuous man, the younger a vagabond, who on account of his disreputable conduct, had been denounced, and was to be seized by the police. The eunuch (for it was no other) considering him the best subject for the execution of his plan, immediately soothed the old dame; and promised to pay a handsome sum of money, if she would permit the youth to accompany him to the capital. Having joyfully received the money, the

rake set off with great speed with his new patron, and quickly arrived at Nanking, where he was dressed in the livery of a household servant, and gained a clandestine entrance into the palace. There he was concealed for some days, when his employer opened to him his mind, by saying, that he had told his fellow-officers, that he was a brave man; they would, however, not believe his assertion; he therefore wished to give a proof of his prowess. That I may effect this purpose, he added, dress yourself in the habit of a bandit, and hide yourself in the garden amongst the bushes: the young emperor will come and take a walk, and do you then pretend to stab him. We shall in the meanwhile pursue you, to show our loyal zeal, and enhance our worth in the eyes of the world; but will let you escape out of the gate. The besotted youth willingly agreed to act his part. Some foreign wild beasts had been sent as a present to the sovereign, and he went on that day, for the first time, to view them in the park, accompanied by eunuchs and some faithful guards following at a distance. Scarcely had he taken a few turns, with extreme delight, when the pretended assassin darted forward with his drawn dagger. The imperial youth was overpowered with fear and trembling, but the eunuchs who were all in the plot hastened forward with great speed, and pursuing the wretch some distance, he asked, when out of hearing from the emperor, where he should fly for an asylum. Suddenly turning around to look about him, he was stabbed by Lew Kin, and his head presented to the emperor. The latter overflowed with gratitude and kindness, and having issued a manifesto, in which he praised the deed of his minion in the highest strains, he made rich presents of gold and jewels to his deliverer, who, in his turn, divided the ill-gotten bounty amongst the fraternity.

The next day the whole court was assembled; hundreds of mandarins were lying prostrate before the great emperor. Heaven's son then stately ascended the throne, and pronounced in a distinct voice his pleasure, that Lew Kin should be commander-in-chief of all the military force, should have the disposal of all offices, and manage the foreign relations. General murmurs interrupted the solemnity of this scene, and all the courtiers immediately resolved to address a very strong remonstrance to their sovereign. The harsh language of the memorial remained unheeded; they then asked for their dismissal, which was instantly granted; and all the hoary headed and experienced men of the previous reign retired in haste; there only remained the minister of finance, an affable man, who troubled himself very little about affairs of state. This unexpected turn of affairs

at once set all the censors to work. They drew up a joint memorial in which they very unceremoniously upbraided the prince for his follies. The latter grew, at this time, really angry; he ordered 30 blows to be given to each of these faithful monitors; and several of the oldest expired under the punishment. One, however, was greatly dreaded for his valor and consummate prudence, and therefore ordered to assume the office of post-master in Chêkëäng, that he might be constantly under the surveillance of the court. Assassins had also been hired to waylay him, but his cunning enabled him to discover the plot; he therefore feigned madness, wrote during the darkness of the night an ode in which he bade farewell to this world and all its glories, and then stole along the river, and having thrown his cap and shoes into the stream, and near the abode of his servants let drop a heavy stone, he was believed by all to have drowned himself from despair, and the funeral rites were actually celebrated by his family.

All the offices were now filled with the creatures of Lew Kin; nobody who possessed an honest heart in his bosom daring to hold a public station. The favorite became a terror to the whole crowd of mandarins, whilst the emperor gave himself up to pleasures, and would never more look at any public paper. Thus six years passed, and the very foundations of the empire were sapped in the meanwhile. The eunuch lived splendidly; from his immense treasures he built a superb palace; and there he gave himself up to debaucheries, inviting the most celebrated physicians, to restore by tonics his enfeebled constitution.

The surest sign of a weak government in China is, when numerous bands of robbers infest the land. In some districts, there reigned great famine, and a host of desperadoes united themselves under a brave leader to get with their sword, what the colter would not yield. Their numbers soon increasing, they were able to defeat the forces, which a district magistrate led against them. This victory increased their boldness to the highest pitch; and Tan, the captain, called upon all well-meaning persons to unite under his banners, to support the emperor against his villainous ministers. Having hewn out a large block of stone, representing a lion, he ordered all the men that wished to enlist under his banners to try to raise the same. If they succeeded, he considered them as able men, worthy to die in a patriotic cause.

The insurrection broke out in Shense province, where the greatest part of the available forces of the empire were stationed. The vene-



rable name of patriots, assumed by the robbers, rendered them very popular. When therefore several famous officers took the field with their divisions, they perceived, to their dismay, that the robbers had so increased, as to render a defeat unavoidable. Still they wished to try their fortunes, and having soundly abused the leaders, in front of their army, they began a tardy fight, in which they were finally totally worsted, and lost nearly the whole of their men. A city was taken by storm, and the unfortunate inhabitants, fearing the wrath of the marauders, either hung themselves on the rafters of their houses, or jumped into wells, or took poison, to put an end to their miserable existence. The remainder, if robust and young were forced to enter the ranks of the conquerors, whilst the females had to be redeemed for a stipulated sum of money, and if the ransom was not readily paid, they were put to death. This terrible example had the desired effect. When a lieutenant of Tan's came under the walls of the next city and declared that he came to uphold the privileges of the empire, the district magistrate very wisely stepped forward, saying that this entirely changed the matter. He therefore came out with his whole retinue, and paid his respects to the generous deliverer.

The fame of these exploits spread throughout all that region, and on the approach of the rebels before the gates of a third city, the commandant immediately intended to capitulate. His wife, however, a spirited young woman, scouted this unworthy idea, called her husband a traitor to his master, and exhorted him in the most energetic language, to defend the city to his last breath. All this speech, however, was lost upon her cowardly husband, the gates were thrown open, and the hostile host, like an irresistible torrent, broke through the streets and assembled at the market. When the loyal wife heard this, she committed suicide, at the very moment the whole treasury and public stores were seized; and Tan, having now something wherewithal to pay his soldiers, resolved to bid defiance to the field-marshal himself.

This unwelcome news soon reached the capital, where the Board of War immediately held a sitting. To concert his plans, the president himself hastened to the palace, but found it shut and guarded. Losing all patience with the sycophants, he broke through the guards, and hastened directly towards the imperial chamber. Before he could reach it, however, he was met by the formidable Lew Kin, who perceiving, that the venerable minister was not willing to comply with the request of retiring instantly, ordered him to have his teeth

beat out. The satellites immediately executed this behest, but whilst the blood gushed out of the mouth of the president, he was unable to vent his wrath, and fell down dead before the door of the harem. A servant who had witnessed the scene ran back with breathless haste to announce the dreadful news to his mistress, an elderly lady. She was sitting with her son and daughter, when the messenger arrived, and having heard the detail of her husband's death, she sunk down dead. Giving no signs of life, she was finally put on a bier, and her children knelt down before the corpse, pledging themselves by awful imprecations to rid the world of Lew Kin, the author of so much mischief, and recently the murderer of their father. They gave directions to complete their mother's burial, and the youthful maiden with her brother, having armed themselves with daggers, penetrated the confines of the harem,—the guards being completely confounded at seeing two such feeble beings boldly overcoming all difficulties, and facing dangers which the bravest amongst them would never have dared to encounter—for the palace is sacred ground, and every intrusion a capital crime. The frantic rage of the young intruders knowing no bounds, they burst into the emperor's private apartments, and there beholding some of the gang of eunuchs, they dealt out deadly blows. Having finished the work of slaughter, they ran down one of the staircases, and beheld on a balcony the dowager wearing a crown, and asking with very great anxiety what was the matter. The youthful hero and heroine then represented all the injuries they had suffered on account of Lew Kin, and the summary revenge they had taken. To all this the grand dame remarked, that they had done perfectly right, but warned them to withdraw instantly. Not yet, however, satisfied with the bloody work of the day, they commenced a scuffle with the guards when leaving the gates. In this they would have likely lost their lives, if an old minister had not earnestly exhorted them to fly for their safety. Orders were subsequently issued, to confiscate their house and kill every individual in it, but it was empty. As nobody knew whither the desperadoes had fled, their effigies were sent about into all cities and villages, and hung up in taverns and markets, with the promise, that whosoever took them dead or alive should receive 1000 taels reward.

The two adventurers bending their way towards Hookwang, met unexpectedly, whilst passing a mountain, a fierce looking personage, who declared, that he would not let them pass, unless they gave up all their property. To this Teheun could by no means assent, and a duel immediately commenced, in which the robber would have been

killed, if his associates had not hastened to his relief. An explanation took place between the two parties, and as it appeared that the marauders had taken up arms in the general patriotic cause, of making a stand against the eunuchs, and to plunder for the sake of showing their zeal in such a noble undertaking, they all agreed, that it was the most advantageous plan, to unite their forces against the common enemy.

An army of 1000 men had been immediately dispatched in pursuit of the fugitives, which is a conclusive proof that their prowess was respected by the eunuchs. The said troops, after some fatiguing marches, encamped in a plain, and fired their guns to show the extraordinary vigilance of the soldiers. This noise, however, frightened some bullocks out of their pen, and the beasts became so unruly, that they ran amongst the encamped host, and actually threw the whole into confusion. Though the herdman finally succeeded in catching his kine, the mischief was done, and he would have gotten a sound bambooning for routing the celestial army with his horned cattle, if he had not very considerately offered to enlist. He being a very short fellow, was considered a great acquisition. After this unsuccessful campaign, the army returned and communicated the news, that the two villains were nowhere to be found.

The king of CochinChina, who is very honorably called a savage, had in the meanwhile heard of the misrule in Peking, and most sagaciously resolved to avail himself of this opportunity, and invade the territory of his imperial neighbor. Before he, however, could take this important step, he assembled a council of state, when the most experienced officers gave it as their opinion, that it would be best to use stratagems in order to spy out the land, and then act according to the information received. An embassy was in consequence immediately dispatched, and the presents, or rather tribute, destined for his imperial majesty, were of such a peculiar nature, that they deserve here some mention. There were two napkins; when the one was used, it enabled the wearer to ascend in the air and fly about without the aid of a balloon,—whilst the other gave power to its owner to create a very long river, which in the parched deserts of Tartary must have been of very great use. But the most extraordinary part was a pegasus, so wild and fierce, that none dared to approach him. He combined the qualities of the dragon, horse, and griffin, and was otherwise a very decent kind of animal. The emperor perceiving, that all his military officers trembled at the very sight of the monster, promulgated an edict, promising that whosoever could tame him,

should become general of the menagerie of wild beasts. The charger was accordingly let out of his cage, and behold! anon he pranced about with such overbearing fury, that every one fled. Finally, the above herdman made his appearance, and having by a dexterous movement hamstrung him, he seated himself upon his back, and capered about proudly. Then he took an iron whip and laid upon him therewith so tremendously, that the poor animal sunk hapless on the ground. Having achieved this exploit, he man walked proudly up to the palace to announce his success, when the wicked pegasus began again to bestir his fury, and was on the point of darting away. This was fortunately observed by the hero, who was again going to beat him numerically with the iron whip, when the animal most rationally fell on its knees and asked forgiveness, promising at the same time to prove perfectly obedient. This offer was accepted, the promising steed was led like a lamb to his stables, and the man by an imperial decree was exalted from a herdman to a general. Such are the vicissitudes in human life. Indignant, however, at the Cochinchinese having mocked the majesty of the celestial empire with such a present, the emperor threatened to kill the ambassadors, but in consideration of their being people from afar, he only ordered forty blows to be given to them with a broad bamboo, and directed that they should be sent out of the country, like a set of vagabonds; and there the story ended.

The herdman rose in a short time to such distinction, that he had free ingress and egress at the imperial palace, and feeling himself buoyed up with the most splendid expectations, he entered into a matrimonial alliance with a fair damsel, a relation of the famous Lew Kiu. But he had already a wife, and she was anxiously looking forward for his return, or for some news about his success in the capital. Month after month elapsed; some years had passed, but neither her husband nor a letter came. She maintained herself in the meanwhile by spinning, but finally some dark rumors reached her, that her truant spouse was in high authority at court. She could then no longer contain herself, but forthwith hastened to the capital. Being very poor, she begged her way, and arrived before the imperial palace in tatters. When the new fangled general heard of her approach, he immediately took counsel with his most intimate friend, a courtier of some rank, how to avoid the visit of his loving partner, for should the secret of a previous marriage be betrayed, he would certainly lose all influence, and be repudiated by his new wife, a haughty woman of a noble family. When admitted to his presence,



his former companion in life showed a great deal of astonishment, in seeing so many splendid objects of costly curiosity around her. She was purposely made tipsy, and then carried to a private room. Midnight had been fixed upon as the most convenient time for dispatching the unfortunate woman. But before the fatal time arrived, a slave-girl, who had accidentally overheard the conversation between the unnatural husband and the assassin, warned her of her impending fate. When the murderer entered, the wife was prepared to resist him, and stabbed him very dexterously. She then took up the valuables, of which her husband had made her a present on her arrival, and hastened away with the faithful slave. In the morning, the whole villa of the general was in an uproar, and the bleeding and mangled corpse of the remorseless assassin, who was of some rank at the court, openly exhibited. Search having been made after the perpetrators of this bloody deed, these weak women were soon turned into real amazons, and with great valor defended themselves against the pursuing police. A hunter and some vagabonds taking their part, they were soon able to withstand the military forces, and to escape to a place of security.

The news of the revolt became every day more threatening, and the young emperor was finally forced to consult with the senior minister of state. He immediately appointed an active general for the frontiers of Shense, who marched with great display towards the place of his destination. Having united all the disposable corps, he successfully attacked the rebels, who in their turn showed great bravery and consummate skill in tactics. The war was carried on in the most approved fashion. The general, or some other great champion, rode before the ranks, and abused the hostile army in the grossest terms which he could command, and then demanded the surrender of the leaders, that they might be cut to pieces, for the sake of example. To such a proposal, the opposite party felt generally little inclination to accede, and returned the compliment with interest. Then there remained nothing else but to fight, and two or three of the respective bodies went forward to measure their lances, whilst both the armies waited with breathless anxiety for the issue. As soon as one or two of the champions had paid for their temerity with the loss of their lives, the suffering party, according to established rule, fled in great consternation to allow themselves to be killed in detail. Was the contest not decisive, and none of the heroes slain, both armies, days and months together, as carefully avoided a battle and fled each other's presence, as if they had been so many spiders.



So far, then, this was an excellent mode of warfare, and certainly a saving of human life. The worst, however, was, that the whole brunt of the contest fell upon the peaceful citizens and peasants, who were plundered, their houses burnt down, themselves frequently put to death, in order to prove the valor of the assailants. The consequences of this protracted way of fighting were dreadful in the extreme, and whole provinces were changed into deserts; and the evil instead of being stayed or alleviated, increased from day to day. Thousands of families being rendered houseless, the wretched people were obliged to betake themselves to a predatory life, and increase the number of insurgents merely to keep themselves from starvation. Thus it happened after a hundred victories, which the imperialists gained, and after the most dreadful slaughter of the robbers, that new armies rose as by magic, and with the dogged indifference of desperadoes contested every inch of ground with the Chinese generals. The prudence of the officers did, however, more than their unconquerable valor; they promised the captains of the robbers places under government, and rich emoluments; with some they kept their word, with others they broke it. By dint of management, however, they embodied 30,400 men in their own army, obtained possession of Tan, the leader, with his brother, and then hastened to the capital to announce their victory.

The army that had constantly been beaten by the insurgents was the corps under the command of the eunuch's creature. The victory recently obtained, by a general chosen by a discarded minister, threw the weight of patronage into the opposite scale. The conquerors, before reaching the imperial city, previously held a consultation, and the commanders bound themselves with an oath to work out the ruin of the eunuchs. Crowned with laurels, the officers entered the imperial palace, where the young prince, ravished with the details of their glorious deeds, made them sit down to a rich banquet. When the wine had made them communicative, and all the restraints of rank were removed, the victorious chiefs loudly declaimed against the vile Lew Kin and his adherents. The emperor at first disbelieved their assertions. Upon this, the general rose and said, "If we cannot bring conclusive proofs in support of our accusations, your majesty may strike off our heads as base calumniators." This energetic speech had the desired effect, the warrant for the seizure of Lew Kin and his partisans was issued, and the matter kept so secret, that he knew nothing of the plot, before the soldiers entered his house. A thousand people were taken, the whole house ransacked from top to bot-

tom, and the treasures that were found accumulated appeared immense. Such a rich booty had never fallen into the hands of the heroic army, and the soldiers now indemnified themselves for the scanty plunder taken from the robbers.

All the young and unoffending females were sent back to their parents, but the remainder, whether guilty or guiltless were all condemned to death, lest one of the traitors might escape. The monarch was now as ready to annihilate his former servant, as he had been previously anxious to uphold him, and without obtaining an interview with his sovereign, the execrable Lew Kin, with one thousand of his satellites, was at once led to the place of execution. Thousands of people were assembled to witness the death of this minion, and of the bloodsuckers that had proved such a scourge to the country. At this juncture a number of his partisans, disguised as merchants, and sent thither by Tōgaou, on a sudden appeared. The latter had received timely information of the seizure of his father-in-law, and being the commandant of a citadel near the capital, he dispatched soldiers in an assumed garb to his assistance. Nobody expecting it, the few military who were present, were of course unprepared for an assault; and when on a sudden attacked they fled in consternation, whilst all the culprits were immediately liberated. But the victorious generals were not asleep, and immediately dispatched a strong corps in pursuit. Having nearly come up with the fugitives, they were stopped by the commandant of a fortress who had waylaid them, and thus gave the malefactors time to make their escape. We had nearly forgotten to mention, that the celebrated pegasus remained in the house of the eunuch, and when the soldiers penetrated into the palace, he made the most desperate resistance, and was killed by one of the most determined warriors. The two celebrated napkins moreover fell into the hand of the posse, and were with great exultation presented to the generals.

Whilst the party headed by the eunuch was kept at bay, the whole country revived under the administration of the veteran ministers, who became in a very short time the most intimate companions of their sovereign. The provinces being tranquil, the two generals who had obtained victories over the rebels, asked now for leave of absence. Their home was Keängnan, which they described as a paradise to the emperor, when they took their leave. The monarch was so much charmed with the detail of the fertile plains and romantic scenery, that he dreamed the whole night about this celebrated spot, and even believed himself to have received a commission, from a di-

vine personage that appeared to him in sleep to proceed, thither, in order to choose worthy ministers and brave soldiers. On the following day, he communicated his plan to his most intimate domestics, wrote a paper addressed to his prime minister Leäng, in which he pretended sickness, and stated that a long time would elapse before he should be able to give audience. The rumor of his indisposition spread very soon, and as he had hitherto very seldom been visible, spending the greater part of his life in the harem, his non-appearance did not create any sensation. In the silence of the night, he put his plan into execution. Dressed in the garb of a scholar, and richly provided with gold and gems, he commenced his adventures. The two generals had not yet reached their homes, when the disguised emperor met them in a posthouse. Quite surprised at this unexpected meeting, they used their eloquence to dissuade him from entering upon so romantic an expedition, but all to no purpose; for he was resolved to perform the tour and laughed at their objections. Assuming the appellation of their nephew, he accompanied them, traveling on in harmony and comfort, until they arrived in Keanguan. Here the emperor found an opportunity of rescuing from prison a magistrate, who had been unjustly accused of embezzlement, and moreover performed privately many other generous actions, which the treasures he carried with him, and his great love of justice called him to do. How greatly astonished was he, when he observed the general system of corruption, that prevailed throughout the land, and perceived the indifference of most of the officers to redress the wrongs of the people! He therefore prided himself upon having taken this step, because he was thus better fitted to rule over a country, where fraud and lying were the order of the day.

In the meanwhile old Leäng, the prime minister, got uneasy about the constant absence of his young master, and being a straightforward man, penetrated to the innermost recess of the palace to obtain a sight of the imperial patient. The eunuch in waiting handed to him the paper in which his master's disease was circumstantially stated. To this, however, he would give no credence, and having by cross-examination ascertained the fact, that the emperor had proceeded incognito to Keanguan, he immediately set out in the same manner in search of him. Being of a very sturdy disposition, he got into many scrapes, and was once nearly seized, for having most unceremoniously at a large party, where many mandarins were present, told his host that he was a thief.

The monarch and his two generals were at the same time trudging on their way, and enjoying themselves to the best advantage. Often they were involved in very great difficulties on account of their daring, and in one instance almost were tried for murder. A pugilist of great renown had given public notice, that for a certain number of days, he would fight every one that came near him, and beat them all. One of the generals, himself a very athletic man, was nettled at their boast, and went immediately to the ring. Having given the champion two very severe blows, so as to throw him out of breath, he suddenly seized him round the waist, and having rendered him powerless, cut him in such a manner as to cause his death. Being therefore taken up as a murderer, the emperor was obliged to write a decree, he having brought with him the seal of state, to liberate his favorite from the punishment of the law.

In one of these excursions, they lost their way. For days together they could not find a single cottage in which to take shelter or to get a morsel to eat. In this dilemma, the youthful prince bitterly upbraided his minions for having misled him, and all the unpleasant feelings of having lost a throne by his untimely knight-errantry started up in his mind. Finally, however, they reached a poor woodman's hovel. This rude son of the forest received them with frank hospitality, refusing to take any compensation for the scanty fare with which he was able to furnish his guests. Having again refreshed themselves, the emperor took it into his head to marry, and for this purpose he made the unpolished woodman his go-between. The old fellow went straightforward to work, and so much frightened the poor lass that was intended to occupy China's throne, that she ran away, and went into a nunnery to free herself from the importunities of her imperial admirer.

Whilst endeavoring to find a way out of the labyrinth, a well-accounted band of robbers darted upon the travelers, who no doubt would have lost their lives, if they had not given in their names. After this, they conversed freely together, and the monarch learned, that the robbers were far from being exterminated throughout the land, and that moreover the consequences of the misrule of the eunuchs had extended to every hamlet and village of the empire. This was a very severe lesson for all three, and the emperor having obtained ocular demonstration, was by no means backward in figuring to himself the wretched condition of the nation in the darkest colors.

A closer examination of the code of the robbers convinced the emperor, that they were a set of gentlemen, and carried on their unhal-



lowed trade out of sheer patriotism. He therefore declared an amnesty, and concluded a lasting friendship. In his future wanderings, he met a congenial partner with whom he formed a matrimonial alliance; and from the moment he joined himself to an adventurer, the brother of this damsel whom he had taken for his spouse. Having heard of the beauties of Soochow, he set out towards that place, to enjoy the delightful scenery and the gardens that surround the city. But the host in whose house he lived discovered the rank of his guest, and the news that the young emperor had honored the city with his presence flew about, a short time afterwards in every direction, and unfortunately also reached the ears of Lew Kin the eunuch. This traitor immediately called his generalissimo, T'ōgaou, and representing the facility with which they might be able to seize upon the sacred person, sallied forth with a considerable army to intercept him. Most of the cities were not prepared for resistance, and opened their gates to the rebel, so that his march through Keängnan resembled a continual triumph. Even Nanking surrendered, and the forces which had increased to more than 20,000 men, now boldly invested Soochow, and in very short time reduced the city to very great straits.

The minister, Leäng, was finally so fortunate as to meet with one of the generals, who had accompanied the emperor on his travels, and they immediately concerted a plan to relieve him. For this purpose he assembled a considerable army, but on his arrival at the camp of the besiegers he was defeated. The general, however, kept up his spirits, rallied his men, and was nearly obtaining a complete victory, when T'ōgaou, who by some means or other had taken possession of the wonderful napkin, created a stream by magic, in which the whole army of imperialists had nearly been drowned. The general was so annoyed at this misfortune, that he stole himself during the night into the camp, and just as a fire broke out, he was enabled dexterously to obtain possession of the piece of cloth, and subsequently used it with very great advantage against the enemy. Still the celestial soldiers made no progress, and it was even to be feared, that they must sooner or later retreat and leave their sovereign to his fate. In this emergency some of the ladies of the camp bestirred themselves; and amongst them the new imperial spouse managed, like another Catherine, to engage the enemy, and finally; to procure the aid of a 'Paou priest, who in conjunction with the genii managed by his sorceries to beat the rebels completely. On the day of the last battle, a tremendous tempest took place, and the disheartened



rebels fled in consternation. Lew Kin, with his immediate followers, hastened to receive the offer of amnesty, and to surrender of his own accord. When, however, he saw preparations at work to make him die a cruel death, he rallied his last strength and fled with his satellites. But their destiny was declared, he was intercepted, and with his followers cut to pieces at the capital. Such was the end of a man who had made so many myriads wretched. The emperor elated with his success returned to the capital, and held a splendid triumphal entry, being hailed by myriads who rejoiced to see their sovereign return. Faithful to his word, Chingthi proposed to raise the lady he had married to his throne, but all the ministers refused to sanction this choice, because she had been the daughter of a publican, still it was managed, and she finally became a very celebrated personage at court. The emperor had decreed death to all the rebels, but his minister, Leang, commuted the punishment to banishment and slavery. The story ends with some moral observations on the punishment of the wicked, which in the mouth of a pagan writer sound well.

We have thus given an uninterrupted account of the contents of these volumes. The book contains the history of the first six years of Chingthi's reign, and tolerably well adheres to facts, though it is more amusing than the dry details of history. Books of this description abound in the Chinese language; there is scarcely a period of which some writer or other has not fully described, in this manner, the state of things. Whosoever would take the trouble of perusing these numerous volumes, would be enabled to give a faithful picture of the Chinese nation, in all its stages. As such we also recommend the present lucubration.

The style is very easy, but full of provincialisms, and the book itself abounds in errors of printing. However, a beginner in the language will be enabled to make out the sense tolerably well, and instead of plaguing himself with the classics, he may read these seven volumes with advantage. The interest is kept up throughout the whole with considerable tact, and there are episodes to be found well worth the reader's attention.

ART. II. *China: its state and prospects, with especial reference to the spread of the gospel: containing allusions to the antiquity, extent, population, civilization, literature, and religion of the Chinese.* By W. H. MEDHURST, L. M. Soc. London, 1838, pp. 582. 8vo.

JUSTLY may this book be pronounced a good one, if it be right so to designate a work that accomplishes the object of a philanthropic author. It has had an extensive circulation, and been well received, on both sides of the Atlantic, and has found many readers in India and beyond the Ganges. By the periodical press, generally, it has been commended, and very highly by some critics. Though we join in this commendation, yet we are not at liberty, as reviewers, to pass by unnoticed its errors and defects. The book is evidently an extempore production; and almost every page bears marks of haste. Had the author carefully revised it, increased the amount of facts twofold (which he could easily have done), and reduced the size of the book one third,—not only would its style and method have been greatly improved by such a process, but the volume would have come forth from the press worth at least double its present value. It has been ranked among the best modern works on China; but it ought to have surpassed them. Perhaps no man living possessed better advantages for giving a correct account of this country, than Mr. Medhurst; and he has done the public good service by publishing his information. In our opinion, however, he has hardly done full justice either to his subject or to himself.

Two or three paragraphs, from the introduction of the volume, will show, more faithfully than any words of our own, both the object of the work and the circumstances under which it was written, they will show too the writer's own view of his book.

“It is necessary that the author should give some account of the origin and nature of the following work. Having been called upon in the year 1836, to undertake a journey along the north-east coast of China, in order to ascertain whether or not that country was open to the gospel; and having kept a record of passing events, he contemplated on his return, the publication of a journal, with some brief remarks on the situation of foreigners in Canton, and the state of the native Christian community there. In the course of his tour through England, however, to plead the cause of missions, he found it necessary to dilate more at large on the political, moral, and spiritual condition of the Chinese, and to relate in order the efforts that have been made for their

evangelization. These statements having been listened to with some interest, and awakened a sympathy on behalf of China, the thought suggested itself, that possibly, the feeling thus created might be extended and perpetuated by a publication, embracing the general state of China, and its state and prospects, with especial reference to the diffusion of the gospel.

“The most important feature in the condition of that country is its population, about which so many different opinions have been held, and for the benefit of which Christian missionaries so ardently long and labor. The question of amount, therefore, is discussed, and the suggestion thrown out, that probably the highest census given of the Chinese people is the right one. Their civilization and political state next demand attention; and some references are made to their singular language, and the state of education among them. As we contemplate the introduction of a new religion into the country, it is natural to inquire, what are their present views of divine and eternal things, and to show the defects of their own systems, as a prelude to the recommendation of another. Before treating on the recent efforts of protestants to evangelize China, it was thought necessary to allude to the previous exertions of other missionaries; and therefore the devoted, self-denying, and persevering labors of Syrian, Nestorian, and catholic Christians, are briefly enumerated. The missions to Canton, the Straits, and Batavia, are then severally described; and the attempts to carry the gospel by means of Scriptures and tracts, along the coast of China, are delineated. This review is concluded by appeals for more agents, and increased facilities for the vigorous prosecution of the work, as it is only when we use the appointed means, that we can consistently look for the Divine blessing on our labors.

“The short time that could be spared for preparing this work for publication must necessarily have occasioned many defects, in point of style and arrangement. Sent forth when very young on this important mission, occupied during his whole stay abroad in studying foreign and difficult languages, and accustomed to write and speak for the benefit of the Mohammedans and heathens, it can hardly be expected that the author should be skilled in European composition. Public engagements, for the first year after his return to England, called him incessantly from home; and it was only during the retirement of the last winter, that he has had the least opportunity for arranging his thoughts on the subject now discussed. Being about to quit his native country during the present summer, to revisit the scene of his former labors, it was necessary that he should begin to print, almost as soon as he began to write, in order to have the book published before his departure. He must cast himself, therefore, on the indulgence of the public, hoping that the circumstances under which the information contained in this volume has been collected and communicated, will be a sufficient apology for the many omissions and incongruities, which may appear. The critic will perhaps survey, with a lenient eye, the productions of the foreign missionary, who, by his residence abroad, in regions where the human mind has been long stationary, has not been able to keep pace with the improving spirit of the age. Any

observations, however, on his matter or manner, made in kindness and candor, will be thankfully received, and should the work reach a second edition, be carefully improved upon. Some discrepancy may appear between the diffusiveness of the first chapters, and the conciseness of other parts of the work; but it is honestly confessed, that, finding the matter grow upon his hands, the author was obliged to condense before he had reached the middle of the volume, and to leave out many interesting particulars, regarding his own travels in the Malayan Archipelago, in order to introduce what had more especial reference to the evangelization of China. Some difference of style will also appear between the descriptive and narrative parts of the publication: but it was thought better to give the views and impressions of the moment, than to abridge them of their interest, by presenting them in a more labored style."

The work is comprised in twenty-two chapters, illustrated with a few wood-cuts and a map of the maritime provinces. "*China, its state and prospects,*" does not appear to us a very appropriate title for a book, which consists of mere notices,—and only in this light we think the author intended the volume should be received.

The 'chronology and extent' of the empire form the subjects of the first chapter. The extravagant pretensions which some writers have maintained for the antiquity of the nation, are justly discarded. Mr. Medhurst thinks the Chinese must have branched off from the parent stock soon after the dispersion, and traveling east settled on the borders of the Yellow river, coeval with the establishment of the Babylonian and Egyptian monarchies. In this we agree with him. We understand, too, what he means when he says, "China is China still." But is it true that "her language and her customs remains unaltered, and the genius and spirit of the people are the same they were in the patriarchal age!" A thorough investigation of these points will lead the inquirer to a conclusion, somewhat different from that expressed by our author. It is doubtless true that "no nation has undergone less change, or been less affected from without;" yet we are inclined to think, that the language and customs of the Chinese have undergone great changes, and that the genius and spirit of the people are not the same they were in the patriarchal age. Too much unchangeableness and stability have generally been attributed to the Chinese and their institutions. A nation's laws are, perhaps, the best criterion by which to test these points. How numerous are the changes in their penal code! Had all things been as unalterable as many writers represent, *fan fan fuh fuh*, and other like phrases, expressive of constant changing and turning, could not have become so common and familiar as they now are. There are

popular changes and fashions in this country, as well as everywhere else among mankind. They may not appear in the same particulars, or run in precisely the same lines, as they do in some other families of our race. Still they are frequent, and some of them are very marked. "Little as the Chinese are given to innovation, and slow to change, it would be a phenomenon indeed, if the fashion of more than two thousand years back had not in some degree 'passed away.'" *Staunton*.

'Probable population,' 'census of the population,' and 'reflections on the population,' are the subjects of chapters 2d, 3d, and 4th, occupying seventy-five pages. The subject of population was brought to the notice of our readers, in the numbers of the Repository for January and February, 1833; and the facts there given are for the most part identical with those adduced by Mr. Medhurst, both having been derived from the same original sources. We agree with him in thinking that the Chinese account is substantially correct, and our best authority. Such was our opinion expressed eight years ago, and all we have since seen and read of the Chinese has only served to confirm that opinion.

The chapters on population are rendered interesting by the introduction of remarks on several collateral subjects, about which there is much need of information among Europeans. The picture of *scarcity and want* is overdrawn. The people in many provinces "are reduced to the most abject state of want and misery, many dying of actual starvation." (p. 28.) "The people in *most* of the provinces find a difficulty in procuring the necessaries of life; many die of actual want." Again on the same page, he shows that, though the people are content with a "diminished quality and sometimes quality [*diminished quality?*] of food; yet many of them can hardly find food enough, and numbers die annually of sheer starvation." (p. 39.) "The extreme poverty of the people in the south of China is well known to all who are acquainted with those regions, and the piteous scenes presented in winter by *whole hosts* of peasants almost destitute of food or fuel, are enough to affect most deeply the minds of the compassionate. The common wages of the day-laborer is but four pence a day, and the remuneration of a schoolmaster from each of his scholars is only ten shillings a year; while provisions are sometimes nearly as high as they are in Europe."

All this is too unfavorable, if we may be allowed to judge from personal observation and inquiry during a residence of more than ten years in parts of the country above referred to. Famines are not fre-



quent in China, and those who die of "sheer starvation" are few. Instances of death in the streets and temples of large cities are sometimes numerous during the inclement season of winter; but most of these are either the debauched and diseased outcasts from the haunts of infamy, or those who have become impoverished by gambling, and enfeebled by smoking opium. The remuneration made by pupils to their masters is usually, in this part of the country, double, and often treble, the amount named by Mr. Medhurst; and his remark was probably made more with reference to what he had observed in Batavia than to what he had ascertained of the people in their own country. Four pence a day to laborers is also somewhat below the ordinary rate of wages; the average is nearer eight pence.

Infanticide is far less extensive, we are constrained to think, than is represented by Mr. Medhurst; nor we are quite sure that it is, as he says, "wholly confined to the female sex." Daughters are not so much "despised and neglected" as he supposes. Infanticide, as he elsewhere says, is more the result of poverty than prejudice, and has to do with economical rather than with religious considerations.

"The Chinese perpetuate this infernal custom merely from parsimonious motives, and just to save themselves the care and expense of bringing up a useless and troublesome being, who is likely to cost more than ever she will fetch, on being sold out in marriage. It prevails, therefore, in proportion to the general indigence of the people, and affords by its prevalence, a criterion by which to judge of the density of the population, and the poverty of the inhabitants. Hence, we find that it obtains more in the southern provinces, where the numbers of human beings exceed the powers of the soil to produce sufficient sustenance; or, in a crowded capital, where the myriads of citizens find hardly room to live or to breathe. In the southern parts of the empire, the natives themselves, who might be supposed anxious to conceal the fact, bear ample testimony to its existence, and that in a proportion which it is fearful to contemplate; while the lightness, with which they treat the murder of female infants, shows that it must have prevailed, in no ordinary degree, in order so far to blunt their sensibilities on the subject, as to lead them to contemplate the drowning of a daughter, as far more excusable than the treading of printed paper under foot. The extent of infanticide in the capital has been calculated, by the number of infants thrown out every night, and gathered by the police in the morning, to be buried in one common hole, without the city. One writer informs us, that ten or a dozen infants are picked up every morning, in Peking alone; hence, the murders in that city must amount to several thousands annually."

Future inquiries may greatly alter our present opinions; but the facts now in our possession do not warrant this statement. The murder of an infant is a most foul and horrible act, and is generally

so viewed by the Chinese; the being that can do it, they stigmatize as "worse than the brutes." They are fond of their children; and, so far as our observation has reached, they usually love their daughters as much as they do their sons. Three lifeless outcast children have fallen under our notice, and four other cases have been reported to us by eye-witnesses. Whether these were murdered or not, there was little or no evidence to show, aside from their being left uninterred. We have made many inquiries on the subject of infanticide, but have been able to obtain very little information from the Chinese — nothing have we learned from them that would lead us to suspect that the murder of infants is more common in Peking than in Canton. The conclusion, that "it prevails in proportion to the *general* indigence of the people, and affords by its prevalence a *criterion* by which to judge of the density of the population, and the poverty of the inhabitants," is unsatisfactory to our own minds, and at variance with facts. Poverty may, and doubtless does, sometimes prompt persons to commit this most wicked act; still the population may be very dense, or very poor, or both, and yet be free from the sin of murder. We are at a loss to know where Mr. Medhurst obtained his opinions; the facts adduced by him afford them little support. It does not appear that so much as one case ever came under his own observation, either in or out of China; nor does he, if we rightly recollect, bring forward the testimony of even a single native witness to substantiate what he says. The subject needs to be more thoroughly investigated; and we will not fail to lay before our readers from time to time any information we may obtain.

The occasional proclamations, issued by high provincial authorities, remonstrating against the practice and forbidding it, are strong and certain evidence of its existence. The facts, that almost every man in China marries and not unfrequently more than one wife, and that many males and but few females emigrate, viewed in connection with the known law of population that the sexes are nearly equally numerous, militate against the idea that great numbers of female children are murdered. But the object of Mr. Medhurst's argument, "is to show, that, the children being sacrificed to Mammon rather than to Moloch, the prevalence of the custom indicates the great poverty and overwhelming numbers of the people,—that there is a disproportion between the supply of food and the number of consumers,—that human life is cheaper than human *provender*,—and hence the conclusion, considering the fertility of the soil, that China is immensely populous."

He represents the Chinese as so "huddled together" that they can hardly breathe: "a room twenty feet square would afford sufficient space for a dozen people to eat, drink, work, trade, and sleep;" and "we may easily see that the ground that would support one Englishman, would be sufficient for the support of three or four Chinese," because the former eat beef and mutton, the latter dogs, cats, rats, snakes, and cockroaches. In the earlier numbers of the Repository, we may have given similar accounts of the diet of the Chinese; but it is time they were corrected. Beggars do indeed eat all kinds of "provender." But the people in the higher and middling walks of life, and the peasantry generally, are by no means regardless of the quality of their food, nor are they stinted in its quantity. Mr. Medhurst says, that even some parts of the mineral kingdom are laid under contribution for the support of life: and adds in a note, "the Chinese use great quantities of gypsum, which they mix with pulse, in order to form a jelly, of which they are very fond." This may be so, but we can find no confirmation of the fact, unless he refers to its use in curdling bean-curd. But even in this use it is laid under contribution much less than salt.

In chapters five and six, on the 'civilization of China,' and its 'government and laws,' we do not find much either to commend or to dispute. The criminal judge, he says, "goes the circuit of his district periodically, and holds his court in the provincial city." The judge makes no circuit. There a few other minor errors in these chapters, but need not be here noticed.

The seventh chapter is occupied with remarks on the 'language and literature.' Mr. Medhurst thinks, "it would not be hazarding too much to say, that, in China, there are more books and more people to read them, than in any other country in the world." And so thoroughly are the Chinese versed in the writings of the sages, that were the Four Books and Five Classics "annihilated to-day, there are a million of people that could restore the whole to-morrow." We question the accuracy of this second affirmation. Persons may be found able to recite the whole: but we have never met with them, and should be surprised if ten such were found in the whole empire. Admitting that there are here more books and more people to read them than in any other country, still we do not think that "learning such as it is, is more common in China, than in any other part of the world." Our author greatly overrates both what is expected of, and achieved by, the candidate, who "is expected to know by heart the whole of the Four Books and the Five Classics, as well as the com-

mentaries upon them. They must also be well acquainted with the most celebrated writers of the middle ages; and the history of China, from the earliest antiquity, must be fresh in their recollection, that they may allude to the circumstances of by-gone days, and enrich their compositions with phrases from ancient authors, who, in the estimation of the Chinese, thought and wrote far better than the moderns."

On the language, Mr. Medhurst's remarks are somewhat less lucid and less accurate than we expected to find them. He notices some popular errors that have been entertained regarding the nature of the language; and to show that it is not so formidable as some have represented, he adduces the testimony of one, who declares that in *eight months*, "all the difficulties of this hard language vanished away before perseverance." Did any man ever obtain a mastery of this language in eight months? Yet so the language, which Mr. M. has used, leads the reader to believe.

To Mr. Medhurst's own knowledge of the Chinese language, we can bear strong testimony. Both in writing and in speaking, he may be ranked among the best European sinologues. But we must differ from him when he repeats, what has often been affirmed, that "in the science of grammar, the Chinese have made *no* progress." We will not pursue this topic here, but may call it up ere long in another number.

While on the subject of language it may not perhaps be deemed wrong in us, to notice such phrases as, 'piles of poems,' 'provender,' 'cream of the country,' and others like them, which now and then occur in his pages. Even Chinese rhetoricians would certainly object to these as inelegant. When speaking of the literary examinations, Mr. M. says, that if the slightest fault is detected in a student's essay, "the individual's mark is immediately stuck up at the office gate, by which he may understand that it is time *to walk home*, as he will not be permitted to proceed to the next trial." These are specimens of phraseology that ought not often to appear in grave discourse. But a word to the wise is sufficient.

At various times efforts have been made to trace a direct connection between the Egyptians and the Chinese. On this point, Mr. Medhurst gives us the following information.

"The notion of some connection between China and Egypt has been revived, since two small porcelain bottles were brought from Egypt to this country; on these, inscriptions have been discovered, apparently in the Chinese character; and the learned have been curious to know their identity and import. A

fac-simile of one was seen by the author in China; and a picture of the other has appeared in Davis' Chinese, but without any translation. On examination it has been found, that the inscriptions are in the Chinese running-hand, and read as follows: *Chun lae yew yih neēn*, "The returning spring brings another year;" and "*Ming yuēh sung chung chaou*," "The clear moon shines through the midst of the fir-tree." This latter sentence is part of a well-known couplet, composed by Wang Gan-shih, a famous writer under the Sung dynasty, A. D. 1068; and as there is a curious circumstance connected with it, we shall hear relate it. The original couplet ran thus:—

*Ming yuēh sung keēn keaou;*

*Wang keuen hwa sin shwuy.*

"The clear moon sings in the middle of the fir-tree;

"The royal hound sleeps in the bosom of the flower!"

"Soo 't'ungpo, another famous writer, who flourished about fifty years afterwards, found fault with this couplet, and altered it to the following:

*Ming yuēh sung chung chaou;*

*Wang keuen hwa yin shwuy.*

"The clear moon shines through the midst of the fir-tree;

"The royal hound sleeps under the shade of the flower!"

"Traveling, afterwards, in the south of China, he heard a bird singing in the woods; and, on inquiry, found that they called it ming yuēh, "the clear moon;" and, observing a grub nestling in a beautiful flower, he ascertained its name to be wang keuen, "the royal hound." It is unnecessary to add, that he now became convinced of his mistake; but too late to repair the evil; as the couplet, thus amended by him, had already been inscribed on various vessels, and transmitted, as we find, to distant Egypt. It will easily be seen, that this by no means strengthens the supposition of an early connection between China and Egypt; and so far from the bottles being coeval with P'sammeticus, B. C. 658, as has been suggested; its [or their.] date cannot be older than A. D. 1130.

'The religions of the Chinese' are succinctly and faithfully portrayed in the 8th chapter. There is certainly a difference between a "caldron" and a censer; and the latter term we had always supposed was the proper name for the vessel in which incense is burned in temples.

The 9th chapter is devoted to the 'Catholic missions in China.' Of the manner in which the subject is discussed, the following paragraph is a fair specimen.

"Encouraged by the openings which presented themselves, Louis XIV., king of France, resolved to send a mission to China; and having selected a number of Jesuits, well skilled in the mathematics, he sent them with honors and pensions on this important mission. Among the rest, was De Fontaney, professor of mathematics, in the king's college; with Gerbillon, Bouvet, and Le Compte, afterwards celebrated for their labors in the east. They went



first to Siam, and from thence proceeded in a Chinese junk to Ningpo, on the coast of China. The mandarins at that port received them with politeness; but the viceroy declared it unlawful for native vessels to bring Europeans to China, and threatened to send the missionaries back, and confiscate both ship and cargo. Verbiest, on hearing of this, memorialized the emperor, representing that they were men skilled in the sciences, and his brethren. To which the emperor replied, 'men of that character must not be expelled my dominions. Let them all come to my court; those who understand the mathematics shall remain about my person: the others may dispose of themselves in the provinces, as they think fit.' On the receipt of this order, the viceroy was obliged to send those men to the capital with honor, whom he had intended to expel with disgrace. At this juncture, Verbiest died, A. D. 1688, regretted by the Chinese, but still more so by the missionaries, who expected to derive great advantage from his counsel and assistance. His character, for humility and modesty, was only equalled by his well-known application and industry. He seemed insensible to everything but the promotion of science and religion; he abstained from idle visits, the reading of curious books, and even the perusal of European newspapers; while he incessantly employed himself, either in mathematical calculations, in instructing proselytes, in corresponding with the grandees of the empire on the interests of the mission, or in writing to the learned of Europe, inviting them to repair to China. His private papers are indicative of the depth of his devotion, the rigor of his austerities, his watchfulness over his heart amid the crowd of business, and the ardor with which he served religion. His sincerity was attested, by the endurance of sufferings in the cause he had espoused; and his disinterestedness and liberality, by the profusion of his gifts to others, and the renunciation of indulgences to himself."

'Protestant missions' among the Chinese are noticed in chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13. Notices of voyages on the coast fill a hundred and sixty pages, comprising seven chapters, which might have been well reduced to one. The 'class of laborers required for China,' is the subject of the 21st chapter. The volume closes with an enumeration of desiderata, and an appendix exhibiting a sketch of Chinese chronology.

We have perused the work with pleasure, and not without advantage; and recommend it to those who wish to know what the Chinese are. In most particulars, Mr. Medhurst has estimated the people lower than we are wont to do. Perhaps he has not seen them in so favorable circumstances, as he would have done had he been longer in China. Those with whom he has been most in contact, in Batavia and along the coast of this country, may not have been, taking them all in all, fair representatives of the great mass of the nation. Throughout his work, however, he has generally spoken of the Chinese in their collective national character

ART. III. *Obituary notice of the Rev. Nathan S. Benham*. Communicated from Bangkok, Siam, April 11th, 1840. By J. C.

[From a note accompanying this brief obituary, we gather two or three pleasing facts respecting the Siamese. Recently, several of that nation have professed to abandon their old religion, and believe in Christ. Though as yet they do not afford evidence of a real change of heart, still, their understandings being enlightened, and their judgments convinced so far as to induce them to receive the truth, indicates that a change is going on in public opinion. Two or three men had recently appeared in Bangkok, inquiring about the Christian religion; they said they lived ten days' journey to the north of the city, and had read the books which told them of "Prah Jeho;" and they wished to know more of him. Prah Jeho is an abbreviation of Phrah Jehowah Chau, a term used for the Deity. It is further stated that, at length, vaccine matter has been obtained in Bangkok; it was brought out recently from America, and has taken well.]

Was drowned, on the night of the 6th April, of 1840, in the river of Bangkok, Rev. NATHAN S. BENHAM, a missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. Mr. Benham was one of the late reinforcement to the Siamese mission, consisting of five ordained missionaries with their wives and two young ladies, who sailed from Boston, July 6th, 1839, and arrived at Singapore, Oct. 23d. He reached the field of his destination, March 3d, 1840; and soon after, resolved to devote his labors to the evangelization of the Chinese, in connection with the Rev. Mr. Johnson, now on a visit to the United States. He had obtained a teacher, and was just entering with interest upon the study of the Fuhkeen dialect of the Chinese language, when suddenly he was taken, as it is believed, to the bosom of the Savior.

The circumstances of his death were as follows. He had been attending the monthly concert of prayer, at the house of a Christian friend situated up the river about two miles from the place of his residence. He left a quarter before 9 o'clock P. M., with three boatmen, and with the expectation, as the tide was against him, of being late home. About 11 o'clock, two of his men reached home with the intelligence, that the boat had been driven by the current against the cable of a junk which they were passing and upset, and that Mr. Benham and one of the men were drowned. The junk was lying near the shore about a quarter of a mile from Mr. Benham's house. Diligent search was immediately made but in vain. Subsequently, the man supposed to have been lost was found, having floated some distance with the tide, and been helped out by a Chinese on shore to whom he called. On the morning of the 8th, the body rose near the junk, against which the boat struck. There does not appear to be any reason for suspecting any violence on the part of the boatmen as

his watch, keys, money, &c., were found with the body, and the whole account of the men makes it quite certain that they barely escaped being drowned.

Mr. Benham was born, August 23d, 1811, in the state of New York U. S. A. In 1830, during a revival of religion in Byron, Genesee Co., where he was then residing, he made a public profession of attachment to Christ. Soon after this he commenced studying with a view of qualifying himself to labor as a foreign missionary. He received his collegiate and theological education at Hudson, Portage Co., Ohio, where also he officiated as tutor for one year. During the summer of 1835, he offered himself to the A. B. C. F. M. as a foreign missionary, and was accepted. On the 4th of March, 1839, he was married to Miss Maria H. Nutting, of Groton, Mass, soon after which, with his associates of the reinforcement, he received his instructions from one of the secretaries of the Board at Middlebury, Vermont.

Mr. Benham possessed a mind much above the common rank, endowed by his Creator with unusual powers for the acquisition of languages. His knowledge of the original languages of the Bible is known by all his associates to have been far beyond, as to extent and accuracy, what is commonly attained by those in similar circumstances. He was a cheerful, humble, devout, and consistent Christian. His remarks at the monthly concert, about an hour before his death, indicated a state of mind which laid fast hold of the declarations of God. Alluding to the fewness of those who habitually attend the monthly concert, amounting as he thought to not more than one tenth of those who profess to love the kingdom of Christ, he remarked,—using language found in the last chapter of Zechariah which had been read,—“Notwithstanding all these discouragements, ‘at evening time it shall be light’—**HOLINESS TO THE LORD** shall yet be written even on the bells of the horses.” O! that the dying testimony of our brother against the churches, on this subject might be heeded. How can they expect great success to attend the efforts of their missionaries, until they as a body are presenting earnest and constant supplications for this object at the throne of grace?

The mission to which our deceased brother belonged feels deeply afflicted. One has been taken from them from whom they had hoped much in reference to the Chinese in this kingdom. But though afflicted, we are not cast down. We feel that our Master is too wise to err, and too good to injure. All things shall yet work together for good

ART. IV. *Ko Dou Dzu Roku, or, A Memoir on Smelting Copper, illustrated with plates.* Small folio, pp. 20. Translated from the original Japanese.

JAPAN, and all that pertains to it, has been regarded by us with peculiar interest ever since the commencement of our work. Nearly all the volumes of the Repository contain articles relating to the country, or its inhabitants; and we wish they had been more in number, and better in quality. When speaking or writing about the Japanese or Chinese, a feeling of half reverence for their antiquity, and somewhat of wonder at their integrity as nations, is always apt to tinge one's thoughts; while at the same time we are half disposed to ridicule their assumptions of these same things, and declare that they are unworthy of the least attention. We are at once both credulous and distrustful, like one who hears a very strange story from a dear friend. However, we hope and trust that the days of our ignorance are passing away, and that ere long we shall be better known by them and they by us.

The work whose name, standing at the top of the page, has unwittingly molded our thoughts, long lay on our shelf an object of curious rarity. The pictures told the general character of the work, but beyond them all was unknown. It was a gift to a friend from M. Brüger, surgeon of the Dutch factory at Desima, who visited Canton in 1828, and brought with him a few Japanese books, among which was this identical volume. Some years after, a few others were brought here from Batavia, which M. Siebold had presented to his friends there. Subsequently several natives from the land of the Rising Sun, by an all-directing Providence, found their way to Canton and Macao: and from them a few more volumes were obtained. The opportunity was favorable, and as time and other engagements have allowed, we have cultivated their acquaintance, begun to learn to speak their language, and read the books which had so long been sealed. The subjects of the several works, obtained as we have just described, from various sources, are very miscellaneous: an inventory of them will give the best synopsis of their contents, and perhaps form an appropriate introduction to the translation of their fellow.

1. *Kashira gaki zou ho. Kin Mou dzu i,* or First book in Instructing Youth, with additions: the plates arranged into chapters. Twenty-one chapters bound up in 10 volumes. First year of the reign



of the emperor Kwanshei, 1789. This work is composed of plates with very short explanations printed at the top of the page. The pictures are in good style, and with the corresponding explanations, cannot fail to be fully understood by the tyro. Along with instruction in his own language, it was apparently intended to teach the lad the Chinese name of the article, or whatever else is represented, and thus the book can be availed of by a Chinese scholar in learning Japanese.

2. *Kwa-hou O shiyaku bai*, or Painting of the Nightingale roosting upon the plum-tree. Nine volumes, octavo. Genbon, 5th year, 1800. This is a collection of odd stories, legends of heroes and demi-gods, illustrated with plates.

3. *Ko kin shen kwo Kagami*, or, Mirror of ancient and modern coins. Printed at Yedo and Ohosaka. Kwanshei, 2d year, 1790. In 1 vol. 8vo. This little work appears to be merely a livraison of a larger treatise on the same subject, it being only a single chapter on those ancient coins that cannot be arranged into sections. It is printed differently from all the others, being in the katakana character intermixed with the Chinese.

4. *Onna Dai Gaku; Takara Haku*, or, A Casket of Jewels: being the Superior Lessons for Females, 1 vol. 8vo. Bunkwa, 4th year, 1807. Published at Miyako, Yédo, and Ohosaka. This is very similar to the Chinese work called the Nen Heaou King, or Inferior Lessons for Females.

5. *Onna Gaku Sunahachi misaho Kagami*, or, Mirror of the Rules and Principles of Female Education, with additions; 1 volume, royal 8vo. Tenpo, 5th year, 1834. Published at Yedo and Ohosaka. This work is similar to the preceding, but much more complete; the first eleven leaves are composed of drawings of the principal occupations of women, articles of the toilet, &c. The great portion of the book contains a treatise on female education, giving an account of all the principal festivals in the year with an illustrative drawing to each one running along the top of the page. The waste leaves of the book, i. e. those next the cover, are painted; a piece of ornament we suppose in compliment to the fair students.

6. *Man kwa, Hiaku nin, isshiu Tokiwa iro*, or, An everyday, agreeable Medley, being a Myriad of flowers and the Hundred men. Kwanshei, 3d year, 1791. Royal 8vo. Published at Yedo. This is a miscellaneous collection of verses which we are told were made by hundred different individuals who had met together. The top of the page is occupied with a series of flowers, persons, landscapes &c., on ten thousand (i. e. on all) subjects. This collection is also



more especially intended for females. This and the last were obtained from a party of six Japanese sailors who were wrecked on Hainan in 1835, and brought to Canton.

7. *Tou Yu Ki*, or, Records of Eastern Journeying. Miyako, Kwanshei, 7th year, 1795. In 5 vols., 8vo. Published at Miyako and Ohosaka.

8. *Tou Yu Ki, Goken*, or, Supplement to Records of Eastern Journeyings. 5 vols. 8vo.

These two works are also called, in a sort of explanatory title placed at the head, 'Remarkable Relations concerning all countries.' They consist of relations of adventurous exploits, descriptions of natural curiosities and similar subjects, the whole illustrated with a few plates. In one of the volumes are some singular hieroglyphics, the object of which we do not at all understand.

9. Dictionary of the Chinese and Japanese languages, arranged according to the radicals of the Chinese language, the meanings written in Japanese katakana. This needs no remark in explanation of its contents; the whole is comprised in one very thick volume.

All the works here mentioned are printed in the Chinese manner from blocks upon paper made from the bark of trees, probably the *Broussonetia*, or paper-tree, which is known to be extensively employed for that purpose in Japan. They are all of them cheap books, and the paper of course proportionably inferior; the first in the list we are told, did not probably cost more than a dollar or a dollar and a half. The paper is far inferior to a specimen which we obtained at Lewchew, which for softness, whiteness, and evenness of texture, far exceeds any paper we have yet seen of Chinese or Japanese workmanship. We turn now to the Memoir.

The *Ko Dou Dzu Roku*, which we present our readers in an English dress, is a thin pamphlet of twenty leaves, fourteen filled with plates and explanations written in the Japanese hirakana character, and six with Chinese writing. There is neither preface nor exordium to the work, which being a very commendable example, we shall follow, premising that throughout the translation, the original is indicated by marks of quotations. We will, however, just add a record of our hesitancy in presenting this performance to our readers. The natives who have acted as our teachers are sailors or tradesmen, persons in ordinary life and of common education, and who in their own country would probably have never attempted to read a book on metallurgy. They know but little more than how to read simple works, or write mercantile letters.

## PLATE I. "Of digging the ore."

This plate is in two compartments; the first represents a miner entering the mouth of the pit, carrying a lamp in one hand, and a pick in the other, with an empty basket swung on his back. At the entrance, he meets a second miner just coming out with a basket of ore. The second shows the same person reaching the extremity of the mine, where is a third workman engaged in cleaving the ore from its bed. This and all the succeeding plates are painted; the colors are everywhere laid on in an artist-like manner, though the cheapness of the work apparently forbade much labor.

"The copper, as it comes from the hills, is undoubtedly in the form of ore; the ore is the effluence of the copper, and in a serpentine vein it rises and appears upon the top of the hill. There are many sorts of ore; that which is of a reddish black color, soft and not very heavy, and taken from veins running from east to west (or horizontally), is the best. The overseer of the mine examines and assorts the ore. Rafters, planks, joists, pillars, &c., are used to uphold and prevent the mouth of the mine from caving in. When commencing, the rock is worked with hammers and chisels; the [barren] stones are thrown away as they are dug, and the ore is brought out; by degrees the hill is penetrated, and the hole thus formed is called a mine. A lamp made of a shell is used as a light, and the quarried stone, put into baskets is carried out on the back. Wherever the quarrying has been done, rafters, planks, and pillars are set up to restrain the overhanging rocks lest they fall. There are many kinds of both good and bad ore. When the mine has been dug deep, the air does not permeate it, and the lamp goes out; therefore, in places above the mouth of the pit, holes are cut down reaching to the mine, opening into it in many places, and secured by planks, rafters, &c.; they are called *shiyaku hachi* or flute-holes. Thus the wind is made to circulate. The whole is called *fuki mawashi* or wind-ventilator."

## PLATE II. "Assorting the ore."

This plate exhibits a company of women, with hammers in hand, pounding the ore, and separating the barren stone; one of them has her child strapped to her back. A copper tea-pot stands hard by, and one old dame is enjoying her pipe while plying her hammer.

"Among the ore there are both rich and poor kinds, combined with the plain rock; the poor is separated from the stone, which is then thrown aside, and called refuse stone. This is the employment of old men and women."

## PLATE III. "Draining the mine."

In this plate, we have a section of one of the "flute-holes," and three lifting-pumps represented, emptying into each other by means of water-boxes

placed on shelves cut in the rock, where also the laborer stands to work the pumps. The lifting-pump is not known to the Chinese, and we were not previously aware that the Japanese were acquainted with it. How invaluable would be the gifts of a steam-engine to the Japanese miners, toiling day and night to raise water from the deep mine, and of a safety-lamp to him who now works by the light of a shell-lamp! The darkness or the depth of the mine is intimated by lamps placed near the pumps; and the painter has very cleverly represented the light proceeding from them by leaving a circle of white around the flame, the surrounding rock being a light umber color.

“In obtaining the ore, as the mine descends deeper and deeper, and the digging is low down, the water bubbles up, making the labor difficult. Therefore wood and bamboo, prepared in pieces about thirteen feet long, are placed one above the other, and these tubes (or pumps) are inserted into water boxes; several tens or hundreds of strokes are required, according as it is deep or shallow. They are worked uninterruptedly, day and night, to draw the water to the surface. In this manner of operation, there is a great consumption of the strength of the workmen, and they cannot progress very fast; wherefore proper spots are selected for raising the water. Below, in the mine, several perches intervene between them, and there they are also guarded from caving in; they are cut down to those spots in the mine where the water collects, and are called *midzu nuki*, or water-drainings. In all of them the wind circulates. The expense of making them in this manner is exceedingly great; the miners construct them according to their own ideas, and they are indispensable. From thirty to fifty years are occupied in making them.”

PLATE IV. “Roasting the ore.”

In this plate, the artist has apparently endeavored so to foreshorten his drawing, that the roof shall appear high above the kiln; if such was his intention he has rather failed, for the roof is drawn so near to the fire bursting from the kiln, that it would soon be consumed, were it so built. The kiln appears to be built in a solid and permanent manner, but without the covering of straw mentioned in the text.

“To roast the ore, a kiln must first be built, having vent-holes in it, through which the draft will pass to the fire. Faggots are spread upon the bottom of the kiln, and the ore laid upon them in rows, and thus alternately, faggots and ore, until the kiln is full. A covering of matting, straw, thatch, and other similar things is then placed over it, and sprinkled with water, and the fire lighted at the mouth. Generally it burns thoroughly in about thirty days, and when cooled is taken out.”

PLATE V. *Smelting the ore to extract the coarse metal.*

The furnace, in this plate, is represented as sunk in the earth, and the smelter is standing over it with a long shovel in his hand to manage the fire. The bellows, which is separated from the furnace by a wall, is made like the Chinese *fung seäng* or wind box, of which a description is given in the Repository, vol. IV., page 37.

“The ore being roasted, is put into a furnace, where coal is employed to melt it; the scoria having flowed off, the coarse metal is taken out; it is copper imperfectly purified.”

PLATE VI. *Taking out the copper when the coarse metal is fused.*

This plate is intended, as supplementary to the last, to exhibit the mode of taking out the copper, after a second melting of the coarse metal. The fire having gone down, a workman stands over the furnace with a broom, with which he sprinkles the metal as a second workman takes it out on the end of a hooked pole; a third is represented as having just thrown a mass of metal into a pool of water.

“When the coarse metal is melted in the furnace, and the scoria has flowed off, the copper is taken out.”

PLATE VII. *Of fusing silver and copper together.*

This plate resembles the preceding, but is intended to represent the taking out of metal after a second melting, when the silver is still alloyed with it. In this plate, a bellows is drawn on each side of the furnace, in lieu of the double-handled single one in the preceding plate. While one workman is engaged in sprinkling and taking out the copper from the furnace, a second is plunging a large mass into a tub of water. The title of the plate literally means “together blown,” and is rather a second purification of the copper ore than alloying it with silver.

“The silver which is mixed up with the copper is melted, and the scoria taken out; it is therefore called *mabuki doii*, or alloyed copper.”

PLATE VIII. *Casting the bars.*

Here we have a large sinewy man represented pouring the melted metal out of a large crucible into a wooden pool full of water, while another opposite to him holds a pair of pincers to take out the bars. The exhibition of muscular tension in the drawing of the gigantic man who holds the crucible is creditable to the artist.

“The alloyed copper is put into an earthen crucible and fused, and then poured into molds to form the bars of copper. These bars are sold to foreigners, and are as excellent as if for imperial use. That which natives buy is smelted in the same manner, but the mode of casting and the molds are different; therefore these are in all sorts of shapes: one is made by pouring the copper into a bamboo stuck in the ground.”

## PLATE IX. "Fusing lead with the copper."

In this plate, one workman, his face muffled and his legs guarded from the fire of the furnace by a mat, has just taken out a mass of copper, and placed it in a trough, while a second, with a spade-like tool, is assisting him in working it.

"When silver is combined with the copper, lead is added to it and they are melted together; it is then called *aibuki dou*, or combined-melted copper."

## PLATE X. "Separating the lead from the copper."

In the previous plates, the form of the furnace has been the same, that of a caldron imbedded in the ground even with the surface of the earth, having the bellows placed on the other side of the intervening wall, and the blast carried into it below its level. No covering is represented, and the flame ascends into a cowl chimney. In this plate, the form of the furnace is oblong, with a curved facing in front; a fender, kept in its place by a rod attached to a post, guards the liquid metal from running out, except at a small orifice, which the workman manages with his spoon-like rod.

"The 'combined-melted copper' is put into the furnace and heated almost to liquefying, when the workman, holding an iron tool upon the surface of the copper, restrains it from flowing, but allows the melted lead to run off. This copper is called *shibori dou*, or wrung out copper, i. e. pure copper. By this process the silver and lead contained in the copper are extracted, whence it is termed 'the wrung-out (or purifying) fusing;' the rules for the process were derived from foreign countries, and it is on this account also called 'the fusing of the southern foreigners.'"

## PLATE XI. "Separating the silver from the lead."

The furnace in which the cupellation is performed resembles a cupola furnace, rising about three feet, and having the fire somewhat below the surface. The assayer is stooping over the fire, intently watching the metal.

"The lead previously extracted is put into an ash furnace, and slowly melted by a coal fire; the lead sinks to the bottom among the ashes, and the pure silver appears coming out from the centre. It is called *hai-buki gin*, or 'ash-melted silver.'"

## PLATE XII. "Of rinsing and sifting."

Here we have two tubs of water, at which are women rinsing the pounded scoria; troughs stand by them for receiving the metallic portions, and a workman is shoveling the heap of scoria.

"Within the earthen crucible, used in melting copper, there is an earthy residuum, which, with the scoria, is put into a stone mortar, pounded fine, and afterwards rinsed. As the water in the bowl flows off, the earthy particles being light also run off as useless. The



cupreous portion, being heavy, remains in the bowl, whence it is taken."

PLATE XIII. "Fusing lead."

This plate is supplementary to those on copper, introduced probably on account of the frequent mention of lead when speaking of copper. The furnace is represented as distinct from the crucible or caldron in which the lead is melted; the fire is underneath it, and communicates with the bellows below the surface. The fire is pictured as having gone down, one workman is lading lead into small oblong molds, while a second is cooling them in a tub of water, and a third cording the bars of lead into small faggots.

"The ore of lead comes from the hills; it is fused in a crucible; and afterwards poured out into copper molds to form bars of lead."

Succeeding these 13 plates are as many more, representing the implements used in smelting copper and lead and specifying their names and uses. To the professed metallurgist, this would be a very interesting part of the work; but it will be neither entertaining nor profitable to our readers to be detained with a minute description of them. There are 100 different drawings, representing the iron ladles, rods, forks, skimmers, pincers, &c., with the sieves, brooms, tubs, crucibles, molds, mortars, weights, &c., employed in the various stages of the smelting. The last page is occupied with diagrams of the bellows.

The remainder of the volume is filled with an account of the process connected with extracting copper from the ore, written in Chinese, and corresponding in the main to the Japanese. It is explanatory of the former, and renders the whole account much more complete than it otherwise would be. It is drawn up in excellent Chinese style, and is a good specimen of the capabilities of that language to describe even the most technical operations. The Japanese writer has added the terminations of the cases, the prepositions, and other grammatical marks by which a native of that country is enabled to read Chinese with much more facility and accuracy than he otherwise could do. In the translation, we have introduced the Chinese characters along with the names of places, in order that the means may be afforded for ascertaining their native names by those who have access to educated Japanese. These, in many instances, are so different from the sound of the characters themselves, as to afford no clue whatever to the names of the places designated, if the reader does not happen to know the very characters employed to write that name. Thus, the three great cities in the empire, Yédo, Ohosaka, and Kioto (or Miyako), are severally written 江戸 *Kcang-hoo*, 大坂 *Tacpan*, and 京都 *Kingtoo*; the last is a descrip-

tive term, meaning the imperial city; it is where the daim or kubo resides. This being their mode of using the Chinese character in writing proper names, we have thought it would be best to introduce them; the same remark applies to names of individuals, officers, and indeed every use of the Chinese. A few sentences occurring in the preceding paragraphs will be met with in these, but being embodied in the original, they could not very well be omitted, and the whole is translated as it stands.

*Memoir on Smelting Copper.*

"The places in this country where the most copper is obtained are Besh-shi 别子 in Yo 豫, Nanbu 南部 in Au 奥, and Akita 秋田 in U 羽; next to these places are Sonsau 村山 in U 羽, and Shiōya 生野 in Tau 但; and the poorest are Ginsan 银山 and Sheukoku 篠谷 in Sheki 石, Kitsnkau 吉岡 in Bi 備, Beiwa 貝波 in Ki 紀, Kinsan 金山 in Sa 佐, Taiya 大野 in Yetsu 越, Taten 多田 in So 津, and some others. From some of these places, there is at times much, and at others little, produced; the mines are sometimes open and sometimes shut. Besides these, there is so large a number which produce but little, that they can hardly be enumerated. Now the productive veins have limits, and the branching offsets cease midway; some of them will not repay the outlay; others, the owners are unwilling to dig; and again there are others which are not worked on account of the labor attending them: of all these there are many.—The copper ore sometimes contains both silver and lead, and at others it is pure without any admixture; it is also alloyed with zinc.\* The rules for smelting are also dissimilar. There is some copper which is wrought by hammering, and some which is cast by fusing: generally speaking, that which contains silver and lead is softer, and is hammered into sheets, or drawn out into wire. That which is alloyed with zinc is very solid and hard, easily fractured if hammered, and unsuited either for sheets or wire; but if the soft and hard be fused together, there is no danger of its fracturing. If lead or tin be intimately blended with it, the alloy is very sonorous, well adapted for mirrors and bells. However, each has its own rules: and if [the reader

\* "I have not yet ascertained the Chinese for this, but suspect it to be 鐵 *loc.*" Note in the original. The characters written for the metal are 白目 *peh mûh*, meaning white eye, and it appears from the context, and what is known of copper ores elsewhere, to be calamine.

wishes to read] the rules for quarrying, smelting, &c., they are briefly explained in the following pages.

SEC. I. *Of the ore*

“All copper localities produce ore accompanied with earth and barren rock. When the mine contains copper ore, its evidence will always be found on the top of the hill, of a reddish black hue, coloring both the earth and stones. It forms a connected vein, either long or short, broad or narrow; either deep or shallow, rich or poor, according as the ore is much or little; for it is the effluence of the copper which steams up and forms it, and the miners diligently examine its aspect in order to judge whether the copper will be much or little, good or bad.

SEC. II. *Of digging the ore.*

“When the appearances on the top of the hill betoken good ore, [the miners] dig several perches into it in a circuitous manner; as they penetrate, setting up posts and joists, and laying boards and rafters upon them, stopping the empty interstices with stones and dirt, in order to prevent the pit caving in. The miners carry a lamp made from a shell, as they work the ore and fill their buckets. The number of days or months required to penetrate ten or twenty perches cannot be determined. Sometimes ore will be, and sometimes it will not be, met with; and when it does occur, the lode will suddenly stop, and again be resumed; at times it will continue on without faults; there are lodes which grow smaller and narrower, the further they are followed; others suddenly contract, and as suddenly enlarge; some diverge, and others are without any branches. The rock which envelops the ore varies in its aspect. The barren rock is thrown aside as of no further use. The ore is of many sorts, yellow, black, reddish and gray, brilliant and dull, some of it contains much, and some of it little. Indeed, the nature of the mine is not uniform, nor is it possible to obtain the ore alike in order to average the good and bad. When dug out, the ore is broken to fragments, and the process of selection and throwing away the barren stone is called *kaname* (or examining the ore). Generally, the best ore produces one tenth of copper, and the poorest, one twentieth.

SEC. III. *Of roasting the ore.*

“Whenever ore is roasted, a kiln is built under a shed. Faggots are spread upon the bottom, and ore laid upon them; a layer of faggots and one of ore alternately are piled up to the brim. A vent-hole is cut in the bottom of the kiln for the draft to be free. The smoke is so sulphureous as to suffocate one, and the fire cannot be approached. When the fire has burned ten days, and gone out, the

whole is cooled and taken out, but the ore has undergone but little change. These are the general outlines (of the mode of roasting).

SEC. IV. *Extracting the coarse metal.*

“Whoever extracts the coarse metal, constructs a wall in a building, and [on one side of it] makes a large furnace, having a trough leading out of it; on the other side of the wall two large bellows are placed. The roasted ore is then put into the furnace upon the coal, and two tall men pull the bellows, while a third, holding a long iron rod, stands before the furnace to separate and level the mass. When the fire has reached its strength, and the liquid metal has risen and filled the furnace, the earthy scoria floats upon the surface, and little by little flows off into the trough; as it flows out, it is suffered to cool, or else water is sprinkled upon it, and it is taken out and thrown aside. When the ore is all melted, more is added, and additional coal placed upon it, until the furnace is full of good metal, when the earthy scoria and coals are all pushed off. Water is then sprinkled upon the top of the furnace, to cause the liquid metal to separate from the cold, and form a crust which can be raised up. An iron pole is employed to peel it off and take it away; first sprinkling and peeling, until all is taken off, when there is found at the bottom of the furnace a mass of copper; if, however, the ore is poor, there may be none.

SEC. V. *Of extracting the copper.*

“The rules for calcining the coarse metal, and extracting the copper, are for the most part like those for melting the ore and extracting the coarse metal. But when the furnace is full of liquid metal, the top is luted with clay, leaving a small hole in it in which to put the coal and blast the charge. If there is any scum take it out immediately, and wait till the whole mass is thoroughly fused; then open the furnace, and entirely remove the ignited coal and earthy slag, after which, wait till the heat has abated a little, and then, sprinkling the surface, take it out in the same manner as when taking out the coarse metal.

“All the operations described above, from quarrying the ore out of its bed to the first making it into pure copper, are done at the mine. The officers' orders are that no copper shall be privately sold, but that it must all be carried to the Riaü-kwa 浪華 foundry; where the superintendents direct the founders to smelt and cast it, then assort the various qualities, and affix their corresponding prices. That which is delivered at Nagasaki 長崎 and Kwashi 和市 is from Besh-shi 別子, Akita 秋田, and Nambu 南部. That which



is brought to market for ordinary purposes of manufacture is all produced from other places besides these three. The number of founders is likewise fixed; they cannot be lightly increased or diminished, lest malpractices should arise. That copper which contains silver, and that which contains zinc, and the pure metal, must not be mixed. There are these two operations carried on in the foundry.

SEC. VI. *The second smelting.*

"Every district which produces copper has it smelted a second time in a foundry furnace. When fused, take off the slag and the coals, and then work the bellows a second time until it is liquefied; wait till the heat has abated a little, sprinkle water upon it to concrete it, and then take it out with an iron rod. This is re-smelted copper or fine metal. [The mass] is about a cubit broad, and half a cubit thick, being a little smaller than the bottom of the furnace. The process is for the most part like that of extracting the coarse metal. Generally speaking, about 250 catties can be melted in the furnace at once, and there are three fusings in a day.

SEC. VII. *The third smelting.*

"The twice smelted copper is put into an earthen crucible, placed in the furnace, and melted. A tub of hot water is set near at hand and a square wooden pool made, into which the molds are placed; and over them a thick hempen cloth spread. When the copper is melted, the scoria taken off, and the fire reduced, hot water is poured into the pool (not very hot), until it is almost level with the molds; then the smelter, firmly grasping the crucible with pair of large iron pincers, pours [the metal] into the molds, which are previously sprinkled with warm water lest the mold should crack.\* Afterwards, water is sprinkled upon the bars to cool them, and they are taken out with a pair of iron nippers. Each casting produces ten or more bars; they are seven or eight inches long, and weigh about ten taels (i. e. nearly a pound av.) each. The copper is all poured off in about ten times, and the crucible is fused ten times in a day. In this manner are made the copper bars which are brought to Nagasaki and Kwashi.†

"The above are all the rules for smelting pure copper; there are

\* "If cold water is indiscreetly sprinkled [upon the molds], or if the crucible is cracked, in both cases an explosion will take place; and because the lives of persons are endangered by such an accident, great care should be used to guard against it." Note in the original.

† Thunberg says the "copper, after being roasted and smelted at the smelting house, is refined and manufactured at Miyako, where also all the coin is struck." Vol. III., page 141. The foundry of Raikwa mentioned in this account may be at Miyako, but we have no means of ascertaining.



others for taking the re-smelted copper, fusing and casting it into square, or round, or other shaped molds, as will be presently explained, and these are, in the main, similar to those for making copper bars.

“Copper was first brought to this country by eastern people. According to the Memoir on Copper, the year was between the reigns of Genki 元龜 and Tenshei 天正. For about a thousand years, the metal from every district was chiefly of the third quality, as they had not learned how to extract the silver; so that they could be called deficient in manipulation. For this is known from the fact, that if broken copper utensils, made in the reign of Tenshei and before him, be smelted, silver can always be extracted from them. The silver used in those days was all obtained from mines. At the end of Tenshei's reign, certain foreign merchants came to Sakai 左海 in the country of Sheu 泉, and taught the mode of extracting silver to Sumitomo Zhiyusai; this was in the year 1591. In the reign of Tsungching of the [Chinese] Ming dynasty, from that which was produced at Soii-yöü-shei, the furnaces of Tenkōi and Kaimutsu became skillful in extracting the silver, though the mode of operation was different. Teëuching reigned the fortieth year after this, in 1631. From Sumitomo Zhiyusai and after, the family has followed the occupation of mining and smelting copper; the fourth in succession was called Sumitomo Tomoyoö, and he discovered a copper mine in the department of Yo (or Yo shiu 豫州,) while Genroku 元録 reigned, which he desired leave to open; it has yielded not less than 7,000,000 catties of copper annually, while it has been constantly worked up to the present time, more than a hundred years. For seven generations past this family has superintended the Raiüwa foundry; and because the designation of the foreign merchants was Shiromidzu 白水 they have joined the two characters to form Shen 泉 their present mark. He who first in this country extracted silver from copper was undoubtedly Sumitomo Zhiyusai, but people generally did not know this fact, and therefore this explanation has been introduced.

SEC. VIII. *Of alloying copper and lead.*

“When silver and zinc are combined with the copper, lead is added and placed on top of the furnace, and the whole mass fused. When the earthy slag and the hot coals are removed, an iron pole is used to take it out by adhesion: its appearance is that of broken tiles, and it is called *awashe kane*, or alloyed copper. Generally there are S

parts of copper and 2 of lead; but the lead is according to the quantity of silver, if there is much then more is added, if little the lead is reduced.

SEC. IX. *Of separating the lead and copper.*

“The alloyed copper is put into a Namman furnace, (so called because the southern foreigners introduced it; it is built of earth;) and coal added by degrees as the bellows is worked. A crooked iron rod is used to stir the metal about in the clay, but it must not be allowed to become melted so as to run. When the lead is fused, it will flow off, carrying the silver in combination with it. If the zinc is also ready to run off, the workman with his iron rod stops and turns it off so that it may not mix with the lead; it usually remains just between the lead and copper. When the lead has all run off (i. e. that combined with the zinc), then scoop the zinc up and take it out; and when both the lead and zinc are separated, sprinkle water and take out the copper; it is called *shibori doü*, pure (*lit.* wrung out) copper. The lead in the hollow place cools and forms a round mass (called *shiyuts shiyo*, or extracted lead); it still combines silver with it, which does not show itself. Truly this process of separation must be regarded as very elegant!

SEC. X. *Sinking the lead to extract the silver.*

“The first thing in cupellating the silver is to construct an ash-furnace; the foundries of Tenkoi and Kaimutsu call it an ash pool, it is made of sifted ashes placed on the earth, having a depression about a cubit wide, and a hollow place in its middle. When the lead is in, coal and fire are put on, and a defense formed of wet ashes like a wall or dyke is built around, leaving a hole in front to work the bellows (as well as to see the state of the fire), on the top of which a cover of a broad tile is closely luted with wet ashes. The bellows is then gradually blown until the fire attains its strength, causing the lead to drop into the ashes, where it forms a mass upon the bottom. The lead is called *ruikasu*, and is afterwards purified from the ashes. The silver floats in the middle as a small round cake, and is called *haibuki gin* or ash-melted silver. Such are the rules for extracting the silver.

SEC. XI. *Supplement of rinsing the scoria of the copper and zinc.*

“The separated copper is of the same quality as the resmelted; it is melted and made into copper rods, and into for hammers and nippers. That cast into square sheets is used to tile houses, the round is made into cups, the oblong pieces are employed in constructing cave-troughs, and the long rods are for making wire. If the lead and

zinc are not completely separated, the copper will split and crack when hammered; it is consequently very important that at the time of smelting it be perfectly purified. Zinc is only used as an alloy in making mirrors and warming stoves and bells; if it is combined in the copper, that metal will not stick to the molds, but when taken out, the engravings and ornaments will be distinct and clean.

SEC. XII. *Of the washing and rinsing.*

"The fragments of copper taken from the refining furnace which adhere to the scoria, and that from the crucible, are beaten in a mortar, sifted, and then rinsed in water in order to obtain the copper.

"Written by Mas'tadzuna (or Soni ten-bou 増田綱) a pupil of Sumitomo Zhiyusai in Raikwa."

When Thunberg accompanied the Dutch embassy to Yedo in 1776, the party after much intreaty were allowed to see the operation of casting the copper bars at Omosaka, which he thus describes. We introduce it as the testimony of an eye-witness to corroborate the native account

"The operation of smelting of copper was one day performed particularly for us, and merely on purpose that we might see it, in consequence of the unportunate intreaties both of our chief and our conductors. This was done with much greater simplicity than I had imagined. The smelting hut was from twenty to twenty-four feet wide, and a wall like a niche was built up, with a chimney on one side of it. At the bottom of this, and level with the floor, was a hearth, in which the ore, by the assistance of a hand-bellows, had been smelted before our arrival. Directly opposite, on the ground, which was not floored, was dug a hole of an oblong form, and about twelve inches deep. Across this were laid ten square iron bars, barely the breadth of a finger asunder, and all of them with one of their edges upwards. Over these was expanded a piece of sail-cloth, which was pressed down between the bars. Upon this was afterwards poured cold water, which stood about two inches above the cloth. The smelted ore was then taken up out of the hearth, with iron ladles, and poured into the above described mold, so that ten or eleven bars, six inches long, were cast each time. As soon as these were taken out, the fusion was continued, and the water now and then changed. That the copper was thus cast in water, was not known before in Europe, nor that the Japanese copper hence acquires its high color and splendor. At the same time, I had the good fortune to receive, through the influence of my friends the interpreters, a present of a box in which was packed up not only pure copper cast

in the abovementioned manner, but also specimens taken from every process that it had gone through, such as the crude pyrites with its matrix, the produce of the roasting, and of the first and second smelting. \* \* \*

“After this we saw a quantity of cast copper, not only in the abovementioned form of bars, as it is sold to the Dutch and Chinese, but also cast in larger and smaller, round and square, thicker and thinner, pieces, for other purposes, according as they may be wanted for the fabrication of kettles, pans, and other utensils.”

The copper exported by the Dutch is, according to Thunberg, packed in long wooden boxes each containing one pecul. A cargo consists of six or seven thousand chests. The bars, he says, “are six inches long, and a finger thick, flat on one side and convex on the other, and of a fine bright color. Each bar weighs about one third of a pound.” One of these bars now lies before us. It is nine inches long, flat on one side and convex on the other, the upper side much blistered, of a dark carmine color, and weighs 11 taels, 3 mace, and 8 candareens, or 15.12 oz. avoirdupois. W.

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ART. V. *The Chusan Archipelago; its situation, magnitude, productions, and advantages for foreign commerce.*

NOTICES of the Chusan Archipelago may be found in the Repository, vol. I., pp. 37, 124; vol. II., pp. 531, 548; vol. IV., p. 333; vol. V., p. 339; vol. VI., p. 13; &c., &c. Leaving our readers to refer to these places, we proceed to collect from other sources such information as we suppose may be interesting at a time and under circumstances like the present. A British squadron, *not bearing tribute*, has passed by the usual anchorages off Macao, and is now, while we write this, moving northward— with what intent, and for what point, we are unable to state, but time will show. If it seeks a place of rendezvous, beyond the ordinary range of tyfoons, where it can best command the waters of the Chinese, it may anchor somewhere near latitude 36° 36" north, longitude 121° 41' east, taking Horsburgh for guide. This anchorage is just off the south of Tinghae, having from five to seven fathoms of water, is completely landlocked and sheltered from all winds. Tinghae is the capital of the great Chusan, or Chowshan, the largest island of the group. This island is



about thirty miles in length, and fifteen in breadth, and is surrounded by hundreds of others, varying in size from little islets, or mere barren rocks just rising above the water, to islands several miles in circumference. An eye-witness thus describes them.

"Most of the Chusan islands consists of hills rising with a regular slope, and rounded at top, as if any points or angles existing in their original formation, had been gradually worn off into a globular and uniform shape. Many of these islands, though close to each other, were divided by channels of great depth. They rested upon a foundation of gray or red granite, some part resembling porphyry, except in hardness. They were, certainly, not formed in consequence of successive alluvion by earth carried to the sea by the great river at whose mouth they were situated, like the numerous low and muddy islands, at the mouth of the Po, and many others; but should rather be considered as the remains of part of the continent thus scooped and furrowed, as it were, into islands, by the force of violent torrents wafting farther into the sea, whatever was less resistible than the rocks just mentioned. Some of them wore a very inviting aspect. One in particular, called Pootoo, is described as a perfect paradise."

Staunton, from whom we have quoted the preceding paragraph, thus speaks regarding the anchorage at Tinghae.

"The part of the harbor in which the *Clarence* anchored, was distant about half a mile from a landing place, near the house of the tsungping, or military governor, who presided in this place, and which bore from the brig northeast by north. The depth of water was five fathoms. In this situation the four passages into the harbor were so shut in, that none of them were visible. It looked like a lake surrounded by hills; and a person standing upon the deck of the *Clarence* at anchor, could scarcely point out how she got there. The extent of the harbor, from north to south, is little more than a mile; but it is near three miles from east to west. The rise and fall of the tides makes a difference of about twelve feet. The time of high water, at the full and change of the moon, appears to be about twelve o'clock. The tides, however, are very irregular, and vary according to the wind, and the eddies produced by such a multiplicity of islands. At the anchoring place of the *Clarence*, the flood and ebb ran in the same direction, within three points of compass; the current setting constantly between east and northeast by east; and for the two days and nights, during which that vessel continued in the harbor, her head always pointed nearly to the same object on the shore. The circumstance of irregular tides had been noticed in the



manuscript journal of the Stringer galley, in the year 1708, where it is mentioned that 'in the distance of two leagues among the Chusan islands, the irregularities of the tides were such that there was the difference of two hours in the time of high water in the two places.' Among these numerous islands there are almost as any valuable harbors or place of perfect security, for ships of any burden. This advantage, together with that of their central situation, in respect to the eastern coast of China, and the vicinity of Corea, Japan, Lew-chew, and Formosa, attract considerable commerce, especially to Ningpo, a city of great trade in the adjoining province of Chë-keäng, to which all the Chusan islands are annexed. From one port in that province twelve vessels sail, annually, for copper to Japan.

"Soon after the *Clarence* had anchored, some civil and military officers come on board to inquire the occasion of her visit; which being declared, it was settled that the party should go ashore the next morning, and wait on the magistrate to make their demand. With these officers came, to serve as an interpreter, a Chinese merchant, who had formerly been connected in trade with the agents of the E. I. Company, while they were allowed to frequent this part of China. He still retained somewhat of the English language. By this man's account, the English had given no just cause of dissatisfaction in this place, though they have been interdicted from it, through the means, as is most likely, of the superior influence of the officers governing at Canton, who are supposed to draw large sums from the accumulation of foreign trade in that port; and perhaps also from the increasing apprehension, on the part of the Chinese government, of the ill effects which might arise from an unrestrained communication between foreigners and the subjects of that empire, in several of its ports at the same time. The Chinese merchants still recollected with pleasure the names of Mr. Fitzhugh and Mr. Bevan, two of the Company's principal agents at Ningpo and Chusan; and indulged a hope that the English trade would be again permitted there. He explained the reason why a salute by the *Clarence* of seven guns was answered by three only from the shore, by observing, that among the regulations of economy in the Chinese government, no greater number is permitted to be fired from the same spot, on any occasion of compliment."

While the ships of Macartney's embassy were remaining at Chusan the parties that went on shore enjoyed good opportunities for seeing Tinghae and the adjacent scenery. Of one of these visits, sir George gives the following account.

"The party, thus obliged to defer their return to the *Lion*, went to

view the city or walled town of Tinghae, situate within a mile from the large open village or suburb, built along the shore. The way from one to the other was over a plain, intersected with rivulets and canals in various directions, which possibly might serve, among other purpose, for that of separating the different properties of individuals. The ground was cultivated like a garden. Not a single spot was waste; and the road, though good, was narrow, as if in order that as little land as possible should be lost to culture. The city walls were thirty feet high, and, like those of a large prison, overtopped the houses which they surrounded. Along the walls, at the distance of every hundred yards, were square stone towers. In the parapets were also embrasures, and holes in the merlons for archery; but there were no cannon, except a few old wrought-iron pieces near the gate. The gate was double; within which was a guardhouse, where military men were stationed; and the bows and arrows, pikes, and matchlocks, orderly arranged, were no doubt intended for their use. Of the towns of Europe, Tinghae bore the resemblance most of Venice, but on a smaller scale. It was, in some degree, surrounded, as well as intersected, by canals. The bridges thrown over them were steep, and ascended by steps, like the Rialto. The streets, which were no more than alleys or narrow passages, were paved with square flat stones; but the houses, unlike the Venetian buildings, were low, and mostly of one story. \* \* \*

“Throughout the place there was an appearance of quick and active industry, beyond the natural effect of a climate not quite thirty degrees from the equator: a circumstance which implied the stimulus of necessity compelling, or of reward exciting, to labor. None seemed to shun it. None asked alms. Men, only, were passing busily through the streets. Women were seen, chiefly, in the shops, and at their doors and windows.”

“These islands appeared to us, (says Barrow,) in sailing among them, to be mostly uninhabited, extremely barren of trees or shrubs, and many of them destitute even of herbage, or verdure of any kind. In some of the creeks we perceived a number of boats and other small craft, at the upper ends of which were villages composed of mean-looking huts, the dwellings most probably of fishermen, as there was no appearance of cultivated ground near them to furnish their inhabitants with the means of subsistence. The squadron having dropped anchor, we landed on one of the largest of these islands; and walked a very considerable distance before we saw a human being. At length, in descending a valley, in the bottom of which was a small vil-

lage, we fell in with a young peasant, whom, with some difficulty, by means of an interpreter, we engaged in conversation. Embarrassed in thus suddenly meeting with strangers, so different from his own countrymen, in dress, in features, and complexion, his timidity might almost be said to assume the appearance of terror. He soon, however, gained confidence, and became communicative. He assured us that the island on which we were, and of which he was a native, was the best in the whole group, and the most populous, except that of Clusan; the number of its inhabitants being ten thousand souls.' This was probably Lowang.

"In some of the passages, formed by the numerous islands, the current ran with amazing rapidity, appearing more like the impetuous torrents of rivers, swelled by rains, than branches of the great ocean. The depth, too, of these narrow passages, was so great as to make it difficult, dangerous, and frequently impossible, for ships to anchor, in the event of a calm; in which case they must necessarily drive at the mercy of the stream. As we approached, in the Clarence brig, the high rocky point of the continent called Keeto, which juts into the midst of the cluster of islands, the wind suddenly failed us; and the current hurried us with such velocity directly towards the point, that we expected momentarily to be dashed in pieces; but on coming within twice the length of the ship of the perpendicular precipice, which was some hundred feet high, the eddy swept her round three several times, with great rapidity. The captain would have dropped the anchor, but an old Chinese fisherman, whom we had taken on board to pilot us, made signs that it was too deep, and, at the same time, that there was no danger, except that of the bowsprit striking against the mountain. The Chinese vessels have no bowsprit. At this moment the lead was thrown, but we got no soundings at the depth of one hundred and twenty fathoms; yet the yellow mud was brought up from the bottom, in such quantities, that the Nile, at the height of its inundation, or the great Yellow river of China, could not be more loaded with mud than the sea was in the whirlpool of Keeto point. The current, in the strait of Faño, setting directly upon the rocks of Scylla and the whirlpool of Charybdis, those celebrated objects of dread to ancient navigators, could not possibly have been more awfully terrific, though perhaps more dangerous, than the currents and the eddies that boiled tumultuously round this promontory of the Chinese continent."

A glance at the map will show how admirably well Tinghae, or some other place in its vicinity, is situated to serve as a military and

naval station, for commanding both the maritime and inland navigation of China. From thence the channel of Formosa and all the rivers and harbors up to Shantung can be reached in two or three days. Starting at early dawn, with a steamer, one could look at the markets of Ningpo and pass on to Hangchow, and inspect the grand canal at breakfast time; then touch at Chapo and Shanghae and run over to Nanking, and there, after finishing the business of the day, take dinner; and during the evening and night return to Tinghae. In four or five days, in case of emergency, a visit might be paid to the emperor at Peking, either by going up the canal or around the promontory of Shantung. The Yangtze keäng and Yellow river will afford one an opportunity, at leisure, to survey many of the richest parts of the empire. (For accounts of these rivers, see our first and second volumes.) In like manner the coasts of Corea and Japan can be examined.

ART. VI. *Journal of Occurrences: political phenomena; attack on the Hellas; lord Churchill's death; attempt to burn the fleet at Capsuy Moon; arrival of steamer Madagascar and Wellesley, 74, with transports; queen's speech on Chinese affairs; notices of blockade; notices to the Chinese; smuggler seized; admiral Elliot leaves for Teentsin; Russian mission to Peking; Russian expedition against Khiva; tea in Asam.*

THE Rubicon is passed. Within the boundaries over which the Chinese claim jurisdiction, a force has entered that cannot be expelled, and that will not pay homage. The struggle now begun will not and ought not to end, until the civilities, the rights, and the immunities, usually yielded to and claimed by civilized nations are secured. All the world must rejoice that such a force is here. On its directors, however, great responsibility rests. With plenipotentiary power to wage war and make peace, no ordinary degree of wisdom and skill are requisite in order in the best manner to form and consolidate the new system of intercourse. All 'communications' should be made on principles of strict justice and pure equity. Throughout the struggle, the lives and the properties of the people should be respected and protected. Immense interests are staked—the well-being of half the world is suspended—on the present struggle. Surely those who bear the sword, and those who are clothed with authority to act in this great contest, will remember whence their power and all power is derived, and to whom for its exercise they are responsible.

Monday, June 1st. One of the men, late of the Hellas, was interred in Macao this afternoon, having died of a wound received on the



22d ult., during an attack on that vessel. This attack is believed to have been made by pirates. But as the vessel had long been engaged, and was then engaged, in the opium trade, some have supposed the attack was made by people under the direction of local officers. It is hard to tell what is the exact truth. The event, however, is a sad and melancholy one, and one at which we cannot but grieve. Especially do we regret the severe personal injury sustained by captain Jauncey. Were it possible, by any means in our power, we would dissuade every foreigner to desist from the traffic in opium.

June 3d. Died at about 10 o'clock this morning, on board H. M. ship *Druid*, the right honorable lord Henry John Spencer Churchill, after one week's illness. His lordship was 43 years of age, and the fourth son of the duke of Marlborough, and at the time of his death was senior officer of H. B. M.'s naval force in the Chinese waters. He was interred in Macao on Friday morning with military honors due to his rank.

June 9th. Soon after midnight, ten fire ships were sent among the fleet at Capsing Moon, for the purpose of annihilating the British fleet collected there. Little or no damage was sustained, but the act serves to show the feeling that still predominates with the Chinese authorities. H. B. M. ship *Alligator* arrived at the moment the fire broke out.

16th. The steamer *Madagascar*, came in from sea at 8 A. M., causing some unnecessary excitement.

21st. Arrived the *Wellesley*, H. B. M.'s ship of the line, bearing the broad pennant of commodore sir James John Gordon Bremer knt. C. B. K. C. N. commander-in-chief of the Indian station. Other ships and transports arrived the next day; and some of them the same evening were seen moving northward.

*The queen's speech respecting China.* Her majesty, queen Victoria, in her speech to the members of parliament, in January says: "Events have happened in China which have occasioned an interruption of the commercial intercourse of my subjects with that country. I have given, and shall continue to give, the most serious attention to a matter so deeply affecting the interests of my subjects and the dignity of my crown." This, we suppose, may be regarded as her majesty's answer to the commissioner's first letter—or, if not an answer, the prologue to an answer.

Instead of venturing to give any remarks of our own, relative to the case now pending between the British and Chinese governments we quote a few paragraphs from English papers.

COMMONS.—In answer to Mr. Mackinnon, Lord J. Russell stated that there had been no official intelligence received amounting to the fact of a declaration of a war against China; but instructions had been given to the governor-general of India to make some active preparations. Sir R. Peel wished to ask whether war, if proclaimed, would be carried on on account of the supreme authority of this country, and at the expence of the united empire? And, whether or no the government would bring down any message to parliament announcing the intention of her majesty to resort to hostilities? Viscount Palmerston said, that any communication with the government of



China would be carried on in the name of the queen of this country, and that whatever assistance might be afforded by the governor-general of India, would be assistance lent to this country under the responsibility of government, and not of the East India Company. With regard to the other question, it was not at present the intention to send down any message of the kind. Though frequently pressed to be more explicit, lord Palmerston called the proposed operations against China "communications," not "hostilities."

MARCH 19.—Sir J. Graham, having given notice of a motion respecting China on the 2d of April, put certain questions to which lord Palmerston replied in writing, that captain Elliot had purchased some opium to make up the amount which the British had agreed to deliver up. Mr. J. A. Smith observed that the warlike preparations going on in India being now matter of public notoriety, and as great anxiety existed on the subject, he wished to ask the noble lord whether he had any objection to state the object of the expedition, and what was likely to take place. Lord J. Russell said, that the orders sent out were to make preparations to have a certain naval and military force in readiness. The honorable gentleman asked what was the object of these preparations, and he could only state very generally what they were. In the first place, they were to obtain *reparation for the insults and injuries offered to her majesty's superintendent, and her majesty's subjects, by the Chinese government; and, in the second place, they were to obtain for the merchants trading with China an indemnification for the loss of their property, incurred by threats of violence offered by persons under the direction of the Chinese government; and, in the last place, they were to obtain a certain security that persons and property in future trading with China shall be protected from insult or injury, and that their trade and commerce be maintained upon a proper footing.* [cheers.]

MARCH 24.—Sir J. Graham postponed his motion, founded on the China papers before the House, to the 6th April. Mr. Crawford having presented a petition from merchants in London calling for inquiry, moved, that the grievances complained of in the petitions of the owners, and representatives of the owners, of a large part of the opium delivered up by captain Elliot to the Chinese authorities, be referred to a select committee. The hon. gentleman went into a history of the trade in opium, from the earliest period it had existed between Bengal and China up to the time when commissioner Lin was invested with extraordinary powers, superseding all the authorities under the viceroy, and appeared in Canton for the purpose of putting the authority which he possessed into effect. The events which followed were too notorious to need repetition. Capt. Elliot, after having returned from [to] Canton, having got as it appeared into the lion's mouth, called upon the British merchants to give up the opium in their possession to the Chinese authorities; of course, on the principle and understanding of indemnification if the owners of opium had not been paid. Now he had only further to state what appeared to him to be the position in which the British merchants at Canton stood in regard to captain Elliot, as British superintendent there. He believed that by act of parliament they owed full and implicit allegiance to every order he might make; they had no choice but to do so. Sir G. Staunton, who seconded the motion, said he thought that had the order of the 11th September, 1839, been issued three years, or even seven months sooner, they would not now be discussing the claims to compensation, nor have seen a suspension of trade, nor a contest which it was desirable to avoid. He, however, concurred in the course pursued by her majesty's government. Lord Sandon thought it right to state the course he intended to pursue in his motion on the 26th; it was to call on the House to condemn in strong terms the continuance by the East India Company of the growth of opium for barter with the Chinese, and to declare the expediency of lending its best endeavors to enable the Chinese

government to suppress the mischievous and iniquitous trade in opium. He had strong doubts whether the empire of China had not a more just cause of war with us than we had with it. Lord Palmerston stated that no objection would be offered to the appointment of the select committee. He conceived that if his hon. friend (Sir G. Staunton) were to examine the papers laid before the House, he would see that he labored under a mistake in supposing that her Majesty's superintendent, since the trade was thrown open, had departed from the conduct pursued by the supercargoes of the East India Company with regard to the smuggling trade in opium.

APRIL 2.—In answer to Mr. Hume, sir J. Graham said that he would read the resolution which he proposed to make on the subject of China, reserving to himself the right of alteration if he found anything requiring it in the papers not yet produced. The substance of this motion would be—"That it appears to the House, upon the consideration of the papers relating to China, presented to this House by command of her majesty, that the interruption in our commercial and friendly intercourse with China, and the hostilities which have since taken place, are mainly to be attributed to want of foresight and precaution on the part of her majesty's present advisers with reference to our relations with China, and more especially their neglect in not furnishing the British superintendent at Canton with powers and instructions to provide against the growing evils arising from the contraband traffic in opium, and adapted to the novel and difficult situation in which the superintendent was placed."

AMERICA. The state of our relations with China seems to be closely watched in America. In the Congress of the U. S. the following resolution was agreed to:—"That the president be requested (if in his opinion it be not incompatible with the public interests to do so) to communicate to this House any information in his possession respecting the condition of the citizens of the United States doing business during the past year in China; the state of the American trade with that country: and the interests of the people and commerce of the United States, as affected by the recent measures of the Chinese government for the suppression of the contraband or forcible introduction of opium into China; also, whether the British government has given notice to that of the United States of a purpose to blockade the port of Canton, or of other hostile intentions towards that government, and any other information possessed by the executive in relation to the above matters. That the secretary of the treasury be directed to transmit to this House a statement of the commerce and navigation between the United States and China, from 1824 to 1839 inclusive, exhibiting for each year the amount of specie, the value and description of manufactured articles, the value and description of other merchandise, and the total amount exported, the quantity and value of teas, the value of silk goods, the value of other merchandise, and the number of seamen employed."

On the following public notices, we have no remarks to offer for the present. They introduce new experiments on the Chinese.

*Public notice of blockade of the river and port of Canton.* by sir James John Gordon Bremer, Knt. c. v. k. c. h., commodore of the first class, and commander-in-chief of her Britannic majesty's ships and vessels of war, employed and to be employed on the East India station and seas adjacent. In pursuance of the commands of her Britannic majesty's government, I do hereby give notice that a blockade of the river and port of Canton by all its entrances will be established on and after the 25th instant. Given under my hand on board her Britannic majesty's ship the Wellesley, in Macao Roads, this twenty-second day of June, 1840.

(Signed) J. J. GORDON BREMER

By command of the commander-in-chief Wm. DYER, — Secretary  
By sir James John Gordon Bremer, Knt. c. v. k. c. h., commodore of the first class, and commander-in-chief of her Britannic majesty's ships and vessels em

ployed and to be employed on the East Indian station and seas adjacent. With a view to the convenience of British and other foreign merchant ships resorting to the coast of China in ignorance of the blockade of the river and port of Canton, notice is hereby given that the senior officer of that station has been instructed to permit them to repair to, and remain at any anchorages in the neighborhood of the port, which he may see fit to indicate from time to time. Until further notice, it is to be understood, that the anchorages of rendezvous for such purposes of convenience, are Capsuy Moon and Macao Roads. Given under my hand on board her Britannic majesty's ship Wellesley in Macao Roads, this twenty-second day of June, one thousand eight hundred and forty.

(Signed) J. J. GORDON BREMER.

By command of the commander-in-chief, W. M. DYER, — Secretary.

*Public notification.* The following is the English version of a declaration in the Chinese language, issued by the chief superintendent of the trade of British subjects in China.

(Signed)

EDWARD ELSLIE,

Macao, 26th June, 1840.

Secretary and treasurer.

Twelve months since, the emperor was graciously pleased to depute Lin, the commissioner, to come to these provinces, and suppress the traffic in opium. He found it stagnant; he has made it flourish here and along the whole coasts of the empire. The emperor commanded the commissioner to regulate and protect the lawful trade. He has thrown it into a smuggled form, and heavy losses have been cast upon all persons pursuing it, both native and English. The emperor, in his wisdom and justice, commanded the commissioner to treat the foreigners with firmness, but with consideration; carefully separating the right from the wrong, so that there might be no reasonable cause for irritation and future trouble with the English government. The commissioner disregarded the immediate offer of Elliot to fulfill the imperial pleasure, which he was ready faithfully to do, in a manner consistent with the dignity of the empire, with the preservation of peace, and with obligations of justice to innocent and absent men, unconnected with the traffic in opium. But on the contrary, he forthwith confined Elliot a close prisoner at Canton, and so detained him for several weeks, proceeded to constrain the whole foreign community, by the want of their supplies of food and of fresh water; and under these circumstances, and most violent restraint, required Elliot to deliver up all the property in the possession of his countrymen, under pain of death.

How has the commissioner dared to degrade the majesty of China and of England, by these insulting and violent proceedings towards an English functionary, acknowledged by his imperial majesty, and who had always respected the laws of the empire, and faithfully fulfilled his public obligations? And which would have been the most effectual means of accomplishing the imperial pleasure? Those that Elliot had offered, and was ready to take, founded upon the separation of the innocent from the offending, and accompanied by precautions and securities that would have given permanent efficacy to such distinctions? — or those of senseless violence, casting upon the whole transaction the character of shameful spoliation? The commissioner preferred a career of needless and spoliatory constraint, which has made amplest reparation a duty of highest obligation in the government of England, which has broken to pieces all sense of confidence in the wisdom or justice of the provincial government, and which has had the effect of immediately reviving the opium traffic at all points of the coast with utmost vigor. The emperor admonished the commissioner to maintain the honor and dignity of the empire. He has over and over again violated his pledges under the seal of the empire, and left the word of a high officer without weight, in the estimation of all men, native and foreign. When a native of the land was unhappily killed at Hongkong in the month of July last in a riot in which several tens of foreign seamen were engaged, Americans as well as English, Elliot closely investigated according to the forms of his country, invited the honorable officers of the empire to attend, and severely punished those persons who were convicted of participation in the disorder. But because he could not succeed in discovering the perpetrator of the murder, and would not consent to deliver up an innocent man for execution, what are the proceedings of the commissioner? He forcibly drives away from Macao a place situated more than

forty miles from the scene of the riot, the whole British community, aged and infirm persons, women almost in pains of childbirth, young children—He causes vessels engaged in lawful pursuits, or in carrying away some of these innocent fugitives (Spanish as well as British), to be cowardly attacked by overwhelming force in the night time, and burnt—Nine or ten innocent persons, some Spanish and some English, lose their lives, some are cruelly mutilated; some still detained in captivity upon the most false pretences, and under circumstances terribly disgraceful to the empire. Poison is put into the springs of water. The English people were driven to conflict to procure supplies of food: worthy officers and soldiers of the empire have fallen a sacrifice to the violence of the commissioner; and falsehood upon falsehood has been reported to the emperor, and proclaimed to the people, to cover these bloody and disgraceful proceedings.

When the commissioner came to Canton, the empire was at peace and respected by the whole world. His first act was one of the most unprovoked war against the English nation, by the imprisonment and wanton insult of the English officer, who had already offered to fulfill the imperial pleasure. He found these great provinces tranquil and flourishing. In less than a year, he has reduced them to the very verge of ruin and insurrection; and piracy and robbery stalk abroad unpunished. It is well known to the foreigners and the people of the province, that many of the provincial authorities, wise and honorable men, acquainted with the foreign character, have remonstrated against these foolish and dangerous proceedings. But, he answered their counsels with contumely and menaces. The gracious queen and the people of the English nation venerate the emperor; and cherish the people of the empire. But great injuries have been perpetrated, and the truth must now be made known to his imperial majesty, to the end that the evil doers may be punished, and that all things may be re-established on a sure and honorable basis. Let the natives of the land pursue their ordinary occupations in peace and security, in the assurance that no violence will be offered to them or their property, whilst they are opposing none to the forces of the queen of England. The officers of the English nation are strictly commanded to protect and cherish the people of the land.

Macao, 31st March, 1840.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

*Public notification.* The following is a notice to the inhabitants of the coast of the province of Canton.

(Signed) E. ELSLIE,

Macao, 25th June, 1840.

Secretary and treasurer.

The high officers, Liu and T'ang, having visited the English superintendent, and people at Canton, with perfidious violence, in contemptuous disregard of the imperial command that they should be treated with justice and moderation, and having shamefully deceived the emperor with false reports, it has been determined by the gracious sovereign of England, to send royally appointed officers to the coasts of China, to the end that the truth may be made manifest to his imperial majesty, and lasting peace and honorable trade firmly established.

This notice is to declare that the queen of England, venerating the emperor and tenderly cherishing the good and peaceful inhabitants of the land, has strictly commanded that their persons and property should be rigidly respected whilst they are opposing no resistance to her majesty's arms. Let them therefore bring their supplies and commodities to the several stations of the British forces without fear, in the certainty that they will receive kind protection, and just payment. The high officers, Liu and T'ang, having by false representations drawn from the emperor orders for the discontinuance of honorable British trade (to the deep injury of tens of thousands of just men, native as well as foreign), the commander-in-chief of the English sea forces has now to declare by the command of the queen of England, that no native vessel will be allowed to pass in or out of the said port, and others, hereafter to be named, till the British trade shall proceed without obstruction at points to be indicated by the commander-in-chief, and until further notice under his seal of office. But fishing craft will be allowed to pass in and out of the port of Canton, without obstruction in the hours of daylight, and the native trading vessels of the outside cities and villages are permitted to pass to and fro, and to resort for purposes of mutual exchange to the station of the British shipping.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

26th A little before midnight a Chinese was seized by the police,



in the act of smuggling opium, near the office of the local magistrate in Macao. He was immediately sent up to the higher officers for trial.

30th. At 7 o'clock this morning rear-admiral, the honorable G. Elliot, with captain C. Elliot, and others in her Britannic majesty's service, on board H. B. M. ship *Melville*, left Macao Roads to proceed, as we understand, direct to 'Teentsin. Their object appears to be to afford the emperor an opportunity of making an amicable adjustment of the unhappy difficulties now existing between Great Britain and China. Canton, the Bogue, and Macao, remain *in statu quo*.

The exact number of the forces now in China, we are unable to give; in round numbers they may be, say, 15 ships-of-war, 4 steamers, and 25 transports, with about 4000 land forces.

*Russian mission to Peking.* According to the terms of the treaty between China and Russia, ten of his czarish majesty's subjects are allowed a residence close by the dragon's throne. Of these, two study the Chinese language, two the Mantchou, and two the Mongolian, with a view to facilitate the intercourse between the two countries. The persons forming the establishment usually remain only one term of ten years, at the expiration of which period, they are relieved by ten others. For this purpose, a mission was to leave St Petersburg in February or March, 1840.

*Russian expedition against Khiva.* This is said to have left Orenburg November 29th, under the command of general Perowski; it consists of about twenty-four thousand men, and twenty pieces of cannon, double the number of troops that can be brought into the field by Ullah Kholi, the present khan of Khiva. Some writers estimate the khan's forces as high as 20,000. For an extended account of this khanate, we must refer our readers to our sixth volume. See vol. VI. page 121, for July 1837. Recent accounts state that there are about 2000 Russian slaves in Khiva. To release these, and to prevent the recurrence of captures in future, are said to be the principal objects of the expedition. Late in December it had met parties of the enemy, and fighting had commenced. "The lawful interest of the Russian cabinet must be established and maintained in Khiva."

*Cultivation of tea in Asám.* It seems but yesterday since it was discovered that the tea plant was growing in Asám. In our fifth volume, (p. 100) there is a brief historical and geographical account of the country. The subject was then just beginning to excite attention; and now it is prosecuted as one of the most important enterprises connected with British India. A steam engine saw-mill, and a steam vessel with a hundred horse-power engine, have been ordered from England, the one for preparing material for tea boxes, &c., and the other for navigating the Brahmáputra. The *Friend of India*, for March 12th, 1840, says, "that no fewer than 1733 laborers have been sent to Asám," from various parts of India. "Forty-nine artificers have also been engaged, and five hundred Chinese laborers are on their way to Bengal in the service of the Company. Finally, a communication has been opened with the Burmese authorities across Manipúr, with the Chinese province of Yunnan, the object of which is to induce Chinese laborers to emigrate from that province to Asám."





